

Honecker, freed from jail, heads for Chile

BERLIN (R) — Former East German leader Erich Honecker left Berlin by plane Wednesday for Chile after a court freed him from jail because he is dying, a Lufthansa airline official said. The 80-year-old communist, who suffers from terminal liver cancer, flew to Frankfurt to switch to a flight for South America to spend his last days with his family. Mr. Honecker rode in a police motorcycle to Tegel airport from Berlin's Moabit prison four hours after a Berlin court lifted a final arrest warrant on corruption charges against him earlier Wednesday. The decision removed the last obstacle preventing Mr. Honecker, who supervised the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961, from flying to a family reunion in Chile. He was the last passenger to enter the plane after an apparent hide-and-seek maneuver with news media at the airport. In Frankfurt, an airport spokesman said Mr. Honecker was to travel under maximum security in the first class, upper deck section of a Boeing 747 Varig Airlines flight to São Paulo, where he would transfer to a flight to Santiago. Earlier information had said Mr. Honecker would fly to Rio de Janeiro. Two policemen would escort Mr. Honecker to South America as a precautionary measure against possible attacks, he said. Another Berlin court Tuesday dropped manslaughter charges stemming from a shoot-to-kill order against East Germans seeking to flee across the cold war frontier.



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Allied planes raid Iraqi missile sites

Attacks said limited to south; Baghdad tells U.N. it will comply with demands

Combined agency dispatches

DOZENS OF AMERICAN AND ALLIED AIRCRAFT bombed missile sites in Iraq Wednesday in retribution for weeks of "provocations" by Baghdad that officials asserted violated the agreement halting the 1991 Gulf war.

"Preliminary information indicates the mission was accomplished," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said. He added the "United States and its coalition partners stand ready to take 'additional actions' to assure Iraqi compliance with ceasefire terms."

Similar statements were also made by British and French officials.

"All of our planes have returned to their bases," Mr. Fitzwater said. Up to 100 American bombers were reported to have taken part.

Mr. Fitzwater said the targets were "several missile sites" in the southern part of the country. Iraq had positioned several surface-to-air missile batteries in the region, and American planners said they represented a threat to the allied aircraft patrolling a "no-fly" zone established by the allies two years ago.

Mr. Fitzwater said President George Bush had deployed a battalion task force to Kuwait to guard against Iraqi incursions. A battalion is generally 600 to 800 troops.

He said the president, who leaves office in a week, telephoned President-elect Bill Clinton in Little Rock. "The president-elect indicated his support," Mr. Fitzwater said.

The United States and its coalition partners today took forceful actions against Iraq,"

Mr. Fitzwater said at a White House briefing after the air raids had been completed.

"Coalition aircraft at approximately 1:15 p.m. EST (1815 GMT) this afternoon attacked surface-to-air missiles and associated infrastructure in southern Iraq. Preliminary information indicates that the mission was accomplished."

He said all the U.S. aircraft had returned to bases, presumably aboard the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk in the Gulf and possibly to some nearby land bases as well.

British military officials and French military sources said in London and Paris that warplanes from those two nations — allies in a coalition formed to oust Iraq from Kuwait during the 1991 Gulf war — had joined Wednesday's raids.

One U.S. official, speaking on

Jordan urges peaceful solution

AMMAN (AP) — Minutes after reports that the United States launched air raids against Iraq, Jordan Wednesday urged a peaceful solution to end the latest showdown between Baghdad and the Western allies.

"Jordan, as always, advocates peaceful solutions to any conflict. We are against force and we support dialogue," Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said.

Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif said:

"We are sure that this is going to lead to more suffering for the Iraqi people," he said.

condition of anonymity, said the attack was a limited one, confined to the southern part of Iraq, and directed at surface-to-air missile batteries and supporting equipment.

A Pentagon official said dozens of combat and strike aircraft had been launched in the effort, and that they were accompanied by

fighter escorts and other aircraft to help ensure the safety of the coalition jet force.

European officials said French and British aircraft participated. A French spokesman said six French Mirage 2000s provided air cover during the raid. The Turkish news agency said American AWACS had taken off from

a base in that country.

The strike was launched two years after the beginning of the Gulf war in which the United States-led coalition routed Iraq, and a scant seven days before President Bush was to turn over power to President-elect Clinton.

At the U.N., Iraq said Wednesday it would stop incursions into disputed territory with Kuwait and would authorize U.N. flights into Iraq — two demands at the heart of the crises that provoked the U.S.-led attack on Iraqi targets.

Nizar Hamdoon, Iraq's U.N. ambassador, told Reuters television he had informed the president of the Security Council, Japanese Ambassador Yoshiro Hatano, of Baghdad's compliance.

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Saddam tells air force to hit back after raids

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told his air force and air defences to hit back after U.S.-led raids on southern Iraq.

President Saddam, addressing the country on state television and radio early Thursday after the raids, said any U.S. or Western plane in Iraqi airspace was a target.

"You men in our armed forces," President Saddam, dressed in field marshall's uniform, said.

"Men of the Qadissiya (Iran-Iraq war) and mother of all battles (1991 Gulf war), you brave men of the anti-aircraft defences, you falcons (pilots) of our proud air force... fight them the way you fought God's enemies before."

At the U.N., a Western source said the United States, Britain, France and Russia have told Iraq it should not assume Wednesday's air strikes were the end of the matter if it continued to defy the will of the international community.

Further attacks could be ordered if Baghdad again flouted a Jan. 6 allied ultimatum ordering the removal of anti-aircraft missiles from a "no-fly" zone over the southern Iraq, or if it failed to comply with provisions of an April 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolution.

Fateh leaders to meet on evictees, peace talks

TUNIS (R) — The leadership of the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) group Fateh will meet in Tunis for three days from Thursday to discuss peace talks and the plight of more than 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel, PLO officials said Wednesday.

The Revolutionary Council of Fateh, which has about 100 members and which is intermediate between a full congress and the small Central Council, will also discuss the results of talks with the rival Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas in Khartoum last week, they said.

The meeting will be chaired by Yasser Arafat, who returned to Tunis last night from Dakar, where he took part in an emergency meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

In Dakar Mr. Arafat said the Palestinians would not take part in peace talks with Israel until Israel took back the evictees.

But an official close to the hardline Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said in Amman that the PLO had not taken a formal decision to boycott future peace talks.

The PFLP decided at a meeting in Syria Tuesday to send an envoy to Tunis to press for a formal decision, he added.

The PFLP is one of 10 hardline Palestinian groups which formed an alliance in Damascus in August to campaign against the peace talks, which have so far failed to achieve any progress.

No new date has been set for peace talks but many officials expect the ninth round to start sometime in February, after Bill Clinton moves into the White House later this month.

The other Palestinian groups said they were dismayed by the outcome of a meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo on the expulsions.

Hamas and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) — the Nafez Hawatreh faction — said they had expected the meeting to back a Palestinian decision to pull out of Middle East peace talks until the evictees were allowed back.

"We were disappointed by the Cairo resolutions ...," said Ibrahim Ghosheh, the Jordan spokesman for Hamas.

"They (Arabs) should have taken a decision to withdraw from the talks and not to leave it only to the Palestinians ..."

The Arab ministers ended their emergency meeting Tuesday, urging the U.N. Security Council to impose sanctions on Israel if it refuses to allow back the evictees.

Hamas and the DFPL oppose the terms of the current peace talks.

Israel seeks to thwart sanctions; Palestinians say no more talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres left for Paris Wednesday hoping to discourage the U.N. secretary-general from recommending sanctions to punish Israel for refusing to take back more than 400 Palestinian evictees.

Mr. Peres told reporters at the airport that letting them back would reward Muslim fundamentalists opposed to peace.

A spokeswoman for the minister said he would tell U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in Paris that unprecedented U.N. sanctions against Israel, as demanded by Arab states, would harm Middle East peace efforts.

"We will do our best to convince the Secretary-General to write a moderate report," said Gad Ben-Ari, spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. At Bir Zeit on the West Bank, the chief Palestinian peace negotiator reiterated demands for

sanctions to force Israel to allow the evicted Palestinians back from Lebanon.

"They (the U.N.) can impose sanctions. We want to see that these sanctions are effective and would compel Israel to get the (evictees) back to their homes," Haider Abdul Shafi told reporters after speaking at Bir Zeit University.

In a separate statement, the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks announced it would not resume negotiations until the expelled Palestinians are returned.

The United States, co-sponsor of the talks that were due to resume in February, was notified of the decision, the statement said.

The announcement appeared to close the door to any face-saving compromise with Israel. It came after weeks of conflicting statement from Palestinian officials.

(Continued on page 5)

Israel says far-reaching progress achieved with Syria

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli and Syrian negotiators have made far-reaching progress and there is real hope for peace between the two sides, a cabinet minister told parliament Wednesday.

Health Minister Chaim Ramon, speaking in the name of the government, was responding to motions by several legislators on the future of the occupied Golan Heights.

The Heights are the key issue in the negotiations. Syria wants all of the Golan back. Israel says it is ready to discuss "territorial compromise," but that the Syrians may first spell out what they mean by peace.

The Middle East peace talks recessed in December, and there have been persistent reports of parallel secret negotiations between Israel and Syria. Mr. Ramon, a member of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party, again denied the reports Wednesday.

The minister told parliament that no progress with Syria would have been possible under Israel's previous right-wing government which ruled out "territorial concessions" to the Arabs.

"In contrast to the previous government, there has been far-reaching progress (since) in the negotiations with the Syrians," he said.

Most Arab countries have said they will not sign the document until Israel gives up the nuclear option. Israel has said it will sign the chemical weapons treaty.

"The fact of the matter is that linking this convention to other issues cannot affect the fate of those issues, but it will surely undermine the effect of this treaty in the one region most exposed to the danger of chemical weapons — namely, the Middle East."

Mr. Eagleburger's appeal was made in remarks prepared for the conference.

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An indication of Syria's commitment to the talks came earlier this week when Arab foreign ministers met in Cairo to discuss Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of 415 Palestinians.

The ministers, including Syria's representative, said the expulsions threatened the peace talks,

but they stopped short of suspending Arab participation.

(Continued on page 5)

Christopher: U.S. must stay behind peace talks

Special from Washington

PRESIDENT-elect Bill Clinton's nominee for secretary of state, Warren Christopher, said Wednesday the U.S. must maintain the "momentum" behind the peace negotiations, but avoided stating that the Democrats — who boast about a democracy-centred foreign policy — would pursue such a policy with regards to Middle East countries.

What can be seen as Mr. Christopher's reassuring words about the new administration's willingness to maintain the momentum behind the peace talks was coupled by harsher words towards regional Gulf powers. "We'll assume a vigilant stance towards both Iraq and Iran which seem determined to sow violence and disorder throughout the region, and even beyond."

Mr. Christopher, who served as deputy secretary of state during the Carter administration, said the Democrat's "democracy-centred policy" underscores Washington's "special relationship" with Israel which he described as the region's only democracy. The secretary of state believes that America's unswerving commitment to Israel and Israel's right to exist behind secure borders is "essential" to a just and lasting peace in the area.

Mr. Christopher said U.S. support for democracy "does not imply a crusade to make the world exactly in our own image." He said Mr. Clinton's policy would be "to encourage patient, sustained efforts to help others build the institutions that make democracy possible: Political parties, free media, laws that protect property and individual rights, an impartial judiciary, labour unions, and voluntary organizations that stand between the individual and the state."

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Mr. Christopher, who took international peace talks to the brink of collapse Tuesday by first rejecting then agreeing to the constitutional plan, confirmed he would offer his resignation if the Bosnian Serb "AYYASH" did not support him.

"I am aware that I am going to have a very hard time in my parliament, but this is the last big concession by Serbs for the sake of peace," he told a news conference before leaving Geneva for Belgrade.

Mr. Karadzic agreed to the constitutional plan, which would create a sovereign Bosnia divided into 10 autonomous provinces, under pressure from his Serb backers, including Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

He also came under pressure by mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, who warned that the Serbs would be held responsible for the collapse of four months of

Karadzic expects his people to approve peace plan

GENEVA (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic predicted Wednesday that Serb deputies would approve a new constitution for the republic, but said he expected to have a tough battle persuading them.

Mr. Karadzic, who took international peace talks to the brink of collapse Tuesday by first rejecting then agreeing to the constitutional plan, confirmed he would offer his resignation if the Bosnian Serb "AYYASH" did not support him.

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(Continued on page 5)

PLO seen to have 'apologised' to Saudis for stand during Gulf crisis

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and a close confidant of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has issued an apology to Saudi Arabia for the organisation's pro-Iraq stand during the Gulf crisis, Palestinian officials said Wednesday.

According to Mr. Abu Ayyash, Abu Mazen used "well chosen" and there cannot be any mistake that it was an "apology." Mr. Abu Ayyash told the Jordan Times.

The "apology" was issued by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) during a visit to Saudi Arabia earlier this month, the officials said.

It was not immediately known how the Saudi leadership viewed the "apology" — a prerequisite demanded by Riyadh for reconciliation with the PLO and other Arab parties which the Saudis saw as having sided with Iraq in the crisis.

When Abu Mazen arrived in Saudi Arabia early last week, the Saudi authorities went out of their way to explain that the visit should not be taken as a sign of improved relations between the PLO and the kingdom.

The "apology" came at the end of a speech Abu Mazen made in Saudi Arabia on the

Mazen was visiting Saudi Arabia to attend celebrations marking the Fateh anniversary and nothing more was attached to the visit.

No Saudi comment was available on the so-called "apology," which was issued a few days later.

"You can interpret it any way you want, but Abu Mazen was apologising. There is no doubt about it," said Mr. Abu Ayyash.

Mr. Hilal of the PLO Information Department, contacted over the phone in Tunis, flatly denied that Abu Mazen's gesture represented PLO policy.

"The statements Mahmud Abbas made in Saudi Arabia were made in his capacity as a private citizen and not as a member of the PLO Executive Committee," he said.

Despite the denial from Tunis, the very fact that Abu Mazen is very close to Mr. Arafat was seen by many in Amman as an irrefutable proof that the "apology" had

Middle East News



U.S. Marines watch over two suspected Somalis Wednesday on the spot where a Marine was shot dead Tuesday night (AFP photo)

Collapse of Addis talks redrews Somali battle lines

By Aidan Hartley
Reuter

NAIROBI — The failure of Somali peace talks in Addis Ababa underlines the clan divisions that have ripped the country apart.

Following are profiles of the main warlords, their factions and alliances:

— General Mohammad Farhi Aideed, 57, is chief of Hawiye Gedir militias who form a faction of the United Somali Congress (USC).

A former army officer and diplomat, Gen. Aideed invaded Somalia from Ethiopia in late 1989. By the time he arrived in Mogadishu dictator Mohammad Siad Barre had been ousted and his ally Ali Mahdi Mohammad had declared himself president.

Gen. Aideed's resentment to Mr. Ali Mahdi led to a clan feud which killed 30,000 in four months of fighting in Mogadishu. His faction has the heaviest weapons in the country.

He repulsed counter-attacks on the capital by Mr. Siad Barre in 1991 and 1992, when he drove the former president into exile. He tried to consolidate control over a large area of the south, the main famine zone, through a three-group alliance comprising:

— Colonel Ahmad Omar Jess, head of militias of the Darod Ogaden Mohammad Zabeir sub-clan, splinter group of the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM). After fighting Mr. Siad Barre, then Gen. Aideed, Col. Jess defected to join Gen. Aideed in April 1992.

U.S. officials believe Col. Jess ordered the murder of 90 elders from a rival clan in his Kismayo stronghold the night before American-led forces entered the town in December.

— Abdi Warsame Issaq is Gen. Aideed's third ally and heads the Dir clan militia under the name of the Southern Somali National Movement (SSNM). This clan is poorly armed.

The aim of the Darod alliances is to isolate Gen. Aideed.

— Ali Mahdi Mohammad, 58, leads the Hawiye Abgal militias, the USC's main rival. The United States brokered a peace pact between Mr. Ali Mahdi and Gen. Aideed, but the breakdown of the Addis talks illustrates their enmity.

A former hotelier, Mr. Ali Mahdi pushed his claim to leadership after Mr. Siad Barre's overthrow at a conference of Somali factions in Djibouti in July 1991. He was declared interim president but few recognized him. Mr. Ali Mahdi's power scarcely extends outside his stronghold in Mogadishu's northern Karka district.

In recent months he has built a loose alliance of 11 clan factions opposed to Gen. Aideed. The major ones are:

— General Mohammad Abshir Musa, 67, and his deputy Abdulla Yousef who lead Darod Mejeretin militias of the northeast Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF), a rebel group formed in 1979.

A former police chief, educated at Princeton university, Mohammad Abshir was detained by Mr. Siad Barre. He is regarded by diplomats as the most articulate and moderate faction leader.

Despite spending six years in detention with Gen. Aideed, two of them in the same cell, SSDF military chief Abdulla Yusef has led his militias against Gen. Aideed in two years of feuding.

U.S.-led forces have not yet ventured into this conflict zone, a huge belt of bush dotted with wells and small towns.

— General Aden Abdullahi Nur "Gabiyyow" (the poet) leads the Darod Ogaden militias of the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM).

Gen. Gabiyyow was a defense minister under Mr. Siad Barre but in 1989 he was detained, sparking a mutiny of Ogaden troops.

The SPM was allied with the USC until Mr. Siad Barre was ousted, but later found itself sucked into a loose Darod clan alliance that linked it with Mr. Siad Barre's clansmen once again.

The aim of the Darod alliances is to isolate Gen. Aideed.

'Illegal' arms shipments case on trial

OKLAHOMA (AP) — Repeated warnings by undercover federal agents that shipments of U.S. military weapons to Uganda and Libya were illegal were ignored by foreign arms merchants, a prosecutor contends.

Baltimore lawyers for four defendants — a former Egyptian air force general, an ex-Egyptian army colonel and two American residents — argued in federal court Monday that their clients were convinced by overzealous agents of the U.S. Customs Ser-

vise.

The U.S. government charges that the three men and a woman conspired to illegally export 300 TOW anti-tank missiles and 34 launchers to Uganda for nearly \$19 million.

In addition, two of the defendants — former General Mounir Fahmy-Barsoum and New York businessman Nezhil Kent — are charged with conspiracy to smuggle Chinook helicopter parts to Libya for \$15 million.

Stephen Arnold, a U.S. cus-

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Aziz	752971
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad	649770
Dr. Abo Al Hamed	603412
Dr. Abu Al Halima	603600
Firat pharmacy	641912
Fertilox pharmacy	77846
Al Asmaa pharmacy	637055
Nurimaa pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	649495
Shimerani pharmacy	637660
Najd pharmacy	847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ali Al Omari	27202
A1 Ouds pharmacy	(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Abd Ghazal	997944
Khalidh pharmacy	985417

Peace talks should not be linked to expellees — U.S.

WASHINGTON (USA) The U.S. State Department said Tuesday the United States believes the Middle East peace talks should not be linked to the plight of more than 400 Palestinians who have been stranded in southern Lebanon since last month after they were expelled by Israel from the occupied territories.

The United States has not yet suggested a date for the parties to return to Washington to resume their Middle East peace talks, acting spokesman Joseph Snyder said. "We'll be doing that shortly."

The spokesman had no specific comment when asked about remarks by Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), who reportedly said Jan. 11 in Dakar that all Middle East peace talks should be suspended until the situation of the evictees is resolved.

"Our position is well-known," Mr. Snyder said. "We believe strongly the continuation of the talks is in the best interest of all the parties. At the same time we continue to work actively, especially in the U.N. context, to deal

with the explosion issue. We do not believe these issues should be linked."

Noting that the United Nations secretary general is working to resolve the situation of the evictees, Mr. Snyder said: "We support his efforts and we urge the parties to resolve the situation peacefully."

He asserted there have been "changes on the part of the Israeli government's position toward these people. I don't know if it's the result of the work of the U.N., but the U.N. effort continues."

Two evictees have been allowed to leave the area in southern Lebanon where they have been stranded between Lebanese forces which have denied them entry and Israeli forces which have prevented their return to Israel or to Israeli controlled territory in the so-called security zone along the Lebanese-Israeli border.

Mr. Snyder reminded one questioner that the United States supports United Nations Security Council Resolution 799, which urges Israel to return the evictees to Israel. "We think that that resolution should be observed," he said.

Rights group says some evictees unacknowledged

TEL AVIV (AP) — A human rights group says that Israel's list of Palestinians expelled to Lebanon did not match the men actually expelled, charging this reflects the arbitrary nature of Israel's punishment.

Andrew Whitley, director of the Middle East Watch based in New York, said names gathered by the group show at least six of the Palestinians at a tent camp in Lebanon are men that Israel "doesn't acknowledge deporting."

Israel has already said other Palestinians were expelled by "mistake." One has already returned home, and the other nine are awaiting transport back to the occupied territories.

"Clearly the fact that mistakes have been acknowledged... does underline the arbitrariness of what took place and the degree of confusion which could lead people being deported in error," said Mr. Whitley.

He added that "perhaps the criteria for selecting them (the expellees) was... not based on any rational considerations."

Mr. Whitley said a Middle East Watch researcher spent 10 days with the evictees in Lebanon. From the resulting information, he said, the 413 names Israel gave to the International Red Cross did not coincide with the expellees' own register of 412.

Fifteen names did not match up, Mr. Whitley said, including at least six men at the camp that Israel has not said it expelled.

These names are in addition to the 10 Israel already recognised as expelled in "error," he added.

Mr. Whitley called the expulsions "particularly flagrant breach of international law" and added his group believed "that the obligation is on Israel in order to return these persons... and then bring specific charges against individuals they feel committed crimes."

The U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution on Dec. 19, two days after the men were expelled, which called the Israeli action a violation of international law and demanded the men be returned.

Israel accused the men of being supporters of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which the government blamed for the slayings of six Israeli soldiers.

While most of the expelled men "openly acknowledge their sympathies with these organisations, they appear to have been deported simply because they were the easier ones to deport," Mr. Whitley said.

Middle East Watch does not support of a banned organisation as a crime but also does not claim that all the expelled men have a clean record, he added.

Mr. Whitley said his group's researcher spoke with over 100 evictees, intensively interviewing 31.

According to the interviews, 15 of the men are professors, 14 are physicians and 16 are of the staff on the United Nations Relief and Works Association, which administers aid to Palestinian refugees.

The remainder are school teachers, businessmen, students or manual labourers, the group's report said.

In Brussels, European Community (EC) lawmakers on Tuesday called on Israel and Lebanon to allow international aid to reach the Palestinians.

The European Parliament's Socialist group, the EC's assembly's largest political bloc, called on Israel to "ensure the immediate and safe return" of the Palestinians.

The parliamentarians also urged both governments to allow "immediate access to international humanitarian organisations."

Rabia Morocco contacts

King Hassan II of Morocco disclosed in an interview published Wednesday that he had been in contact with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin over the expelled Palestinians.

The king also said he did not think the expulsions would hinder the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process.

The king's remarks were carried in the Saudi daily Al Sharq Al Awsat and also published in several other Gulf papers.

King Hassan was quoted as saying Mr. Rabin got himself "trapped" into expelling the men.

"He let himself be framed, and I prayed that he could get out of the net because if any peace bargain is to be struck, it is with the Israeli Labour Party," he said.

King Hassan said the message to Mr. Rabin was sent through "a special channel." He gave no specifics.

"I asked Mr. Rabin how can this be?" The Jews of Europe hold it against Hitler and are still weeping and complaining, and have been dispersed... and expelled from their homes, and you are now committing the same mistake?" King Hassan said.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:15 ... Sanaa (RJ)

09:15 ... Riyad (RJ)

09:30 ... Cairo, Asaba (RJ)

10:15 ... New Delhi (RJ)

10:30 ... Beirut (RJ)

11:45 ... Colombo (RJ)

12:45 ... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

13:00 ... Abu Dhabi (RJ)

13:25 ... London, Berlin (RJ)

13:45 ... Tokyo, Bangkok (RJ)

14:00 ... Rome (RJ)

14:15 ... Athens, Larnaca (RJ)

14:30 ... Jakarta (RJ)

14:45 ... Seoul (RJ)

14:55 ... Damascus, Paris (AF)

15:15 ... Cairo, Asaba (ME)

15:30 ... Larnaca, Vienna (OS)

15:45 ... Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GFI)

15:55 ... Jakarta (GFI)

16:15 ... Seoul (GFI)

16:30 ... Tokyo, Bangkok (GFI)

16:45 ... Rome (GFI)

16:55 ... Athens, Larnaca (GFI)

17:15 ... Jakarta (GFI)

17:30 ... Seoul (GFI)

17:45 ... Tokyo, Bangkok (GFI)

17:55 ... Rome (GFI)

18:15 ... Athens, Larnaca (GFI)

18:30 ... Jakarta (GFI)

18:45 ... Seoul (GFI)

18:55 ... Tokyo, Bangkok (GFI)

19:15 ... Rome (GFI)

19:30 ... Athens, Larnaca (GFI)

19:45 ... Jakarta (GFI)

19:55 ... Seoul (GFI)

20:15 ... Tokyo, Bangkok (GFI)

20:30 ... Rome (GFI)

20:45 ... Athens, Larnaca (GFI)

الجامعة العربية

Home News

ESCWA likely to stay in Amman

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter



AMMAN — The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is more likely to decide to pick Amman as its permanent base after its Jordanian Executive Secretary Tayseer Abdul Jaber completes his four-year term at the end of this month.

Under the ESCWA statute, a national of the country where it is headquartered cannot head the organisation and, based on this, a new term for Dr. Abdul Jaber would preclude any ESCWA decision to set up permanent base in the Kingdom.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Abdul Jaber said that he had declined to accept a new four-year contract when his current term ends Jan. 31. A new executive secretary will be named next week by the U.N. General Secretary. Dr. Abdul Jaber said his decision "will implicitly or tacitly be taken into consideration" when a decision is made by the U.N. headquarters over where ESCWA will be based.

ESCWA was based in Beirut until the Lebanese civil war forced its move to Baghdad in 1973. Subsequently, the Gulf crisis, which erupted with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, prompted a further move to Amman.

During the 16th annual session of the commission in Amman in September, the first to be held after the Gulf crisis — Lebanon, backed by Syria, lobbied to return the ESCWA headquarters to Beirut. However, ESCWA members put off a decision until May, when a panel entrusted with the task will meet the planning minis-

ter of the member states.

Jaber is expected to intensify efforts to convince member countries of ESCWA to keep the offices in Amman and Dr. Abdul Jaber expects that these efforts will bear fruit despite the strong counterfeits from the Lebanese government. He says that the strongest card in Jordan's hand is its continued state of stability in a region which has faced several crises and conflicts during the past few years.

The continued state of uncertainty and tension in Lebanon, despite efforts at full recovery, may weigh heavily in Jordan's favour when a final decision is announced in May.

According to Mr. Abdul Jaber, Jordan required to provide ESCWA with a suitable office building as well as conference facilities as a condition to its continued presence in the Kingdom. In return, however, Dr. Abdul Jaber is quick to point out, ESCWA has a bi-annual U.N. budget of \$55 million in foreign exchange which is beneficial for Jordan's economy. ESCWA also

employs a third of its 350-strong staff from the host country.

The overall goal of the commission is to initiate and facilitate concerted regional action for the economic reconstruction and a development of the region, to raise the level of economic activity in Western Asia and to maintain and strengthen the economic relations of the countries of the area, both among themselves and with other parts of the world.

Prominent among the goals of ESCWA, which was established in 1973, is the promotion of regional self-reliance through fostering technical and economic cooperation among its member countries. The commission also acts as a "think tank" contributing to the enrichment of development literature.

These services will be more easily available to Jordan if ESCWA sets up permanent base in Amman, since there will be no travel budgeting for our experts who will make their expertise and knowledge available to ministries and concerned development institutions," Dr. Abdul Jaber said.

The commission does not charge member countries for its services but has to make special financial allocations when such a request comes from a country other than the one it is based in.

Dr. Abdul Jaber, who holds a doctorate degree in economics from the University of Southern California, served as minister of labour and social development in Jordan for one year in 1984. Observers expect that he will be brought back to the post or another ministerial level position in March when a reshuffle of the Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker government is expected to take place.

Hassan II says Arabs do not rule out summit

AMMAN (J.T.) — King Hassan of Morocco has said in a newspaper interview that he did not hear a negative reply to his call for convening an Arab summit meeting from any Arab country he visited during October and November.

During the tour, the king said, he discussed the question of holding a summit meeting and found that differences and problems did exist at the level of leaders to leader but "these problems were not of an irresolvable nature."

In an interview with the London-based Al Sharq Al Awsat and the Jordanian daily Al Dustour King Hassan said that at the time of his tour the U.S. presidential election was at its peak and everyone had to wait to see the outcome of the polls.

Asked why he visited five countries only during his tour, King Hassan noted that he visited Syria, Egypt and Jordan as they were "confrontation states." But he also visited King Fahd of Saudi Arabia while he was performing the lesser pilgrimage and the president of the United Arab Emirates who visited Morocco twice a year. Asked about his

contacts with the Israelis and whether he would host Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin again, the king said that he did not play host to Mr. Rabin in the first time, but the Israeli premier had requested the visit.

King Hassan said he did not mind a second Rabin visit provided "there were new elements for the two sides to agree upon for their mutual benefit."

Asked whether the question of the Palestinian refugees would influence the peace process, the king expressed belief that it would not directly affect the process. But he said this problem would affect the position of the Israeli prime minister "who had fallen into a trap." However, he added, if there was a peace plan no other Israeli party than Labour could achieve it with the Arabs.

Asked whether Morocco was afraid of the influence of Algerian fundamentalists, King Hassan replied that he had wished to see the 1992 Algerian parliamentary elections take its full course in two stages and did not stop at the first stage.

Jordan, Chile sign technical agreement

By Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and Chile have just concluded a three-year technical and cultural agreement that officials say would pave the ground for a further bolstering of bilateral ties.

The agreement, which was signed by the ambassador of Chile Nelson Haddad and the Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning Sufwan Touqan, covers fields of education, science, art, culture, sports, youth, journalism, health, social development, archaeology and tourism.

In a statement after the signing of the agreement, Dr. Haddad said the pact was aimed at further increasing and enhancing friendly relations between Chile and Jordan.

Describing bilateral ties as excellent, the ambassador said that the 34-article agreement encourages exchange of visits by journalists and intellectuals as well as educational programmes and publications.

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Zayadin says communist party abides by Constitution, Charter

By Masa Aini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Communist Party is guided by the Jordanian people and culture and is not directed by any foreign sources, party leader Yaqoub Zayadin has said. The party's programmes are determined on the basis of the priorities and needs of the Jordanian people. Dr. Zayadin said in a seminar held on Tuesday at the Arab Youth Forum.

The party was denied a licence by the Ministry of Interior last month but Dr. Zayadin said that "Jordan needs the Communist Party more than ever."

He explained that the party abides by the National Charter and the Jordanian law, claiming that article 23 of the Constitution emphasises the rights and duties of the Jordanian workers more than the party's programme.

"We work for a Communist reality that implements social equality and raises the value of the human being in accordance with the existing laws," he said.

"Jordan has come a long way with the process of democratisation," said Dr. Zayadin "and we have proposed to merge with the Islamic and National currents since it is appropriate to unite to stand against the Israeli threat and the Western imperialism, and improve the situation in our country." But he said the party still has its differences with these movements.

He said the Jordan Communist Party is a national independent party which in 1947 called for the acceptance of the U.N. partition plan for Palestine and severely criticised for it."

The party is divided over dif-

ferences on the Gulf war as Dr. Zayadin condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait while prominent party member deputy Issa Madanat was more sympathetic with the Iraqi action. Subsequently, Mr. Madanat established his own party, Jordan Democratic Socialist Party and has applied for a licence from the government.

Attributing the failure of Communism in the former Soviet Union to the "misconduct" of its leadership, Dr. Zayadin said: "Communism did not fail as an ideology but as a model that was practised in the wrong way and the wrong time."

Dr. Zayadin said that the socialist October Revolution in Russia in 1917 had its positive and negative aspects. It turned Russia from an undeveloped to a superpower state that had contributed in liberating several countries from colonialism. "The former Soviet Union has done a lot for the Arab World in terms of armament and development projects," he said.

"The misinterpretation of socialism and bureaucracy in the institutions and factories created a class which tended to rule for its own interests, and the government abused the concept of a one-party system which is supposed to be guided by the people.

He said the problem with Communism is that it did not learn from capitalism, which has taken a lot from Marx. He said Communism is the first doctrine that deals with the mind and mentality and is not an atheist dogma.

Asked if the Communist Party has a chance of retaining its lost power in the former Soviet Union, Dr. Zayadin said "the Marxist ideology will rid itself of those who do not belong to it. There is an operation team in every Communist Party to review the application of Communism."

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Compared to Islam, Dr. Zayadin said that the core of Communism exists in the Arab Islamic culture. "Islam talked a lot about the bases of Communism and we cannot apply Communism before applying the Islamic doctrine."

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WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Latin American Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Jordanian artist Salam Kanaan at Rival Al Balka Gallery for fine arts, Al Faleqi City.
- ★ FILM
- ★ Clint Eastwood's 1983 film "Sudden Impact" at 5 p.m. at the American Centre (117 min., rated R).

Queen Noor distributes certificates to nursing students

AMMAN (J.T.) — Queen Noor distributed certificates to nursing students.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Health strives to expand nursing and midwifery education in Jordan and to raise the standard of training of nurses to cope with the growing needs in health services. Minister of Health Aref Banish said Wednesday.

Addressing a ceremony for the graduation of a new batch of nurses and midwives held at the Palace of Culture under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, Dr. Banish said that the Health Ministry was now involved in boosting the capacity of the existing nursing colleges and at the same time providing them with qualified staff.

The Queen distributed diplomas and awards to graduates.

UNRWA department to move to Jordan

AMMAN — The Education and Cultural Departments at the headquarters of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Vienna will be moving to Amman by June or July this year. Other departments will gradually follow suit, probably within two years, according to UNRWA officials.

In the November issue of its news letter the agency's Amman office said the Commissioner General of UNRWA Idris Turkmen had decided that the departments will cease functions from Vienna and will be established at the UNRWA headquarters branch in Amman in July of this year.

The news letter quoted Mr. Turkmen as saying that he decided on the move in the interest of the agency.

By moving gradually to Amman, UNRWA will be stationed in the main centre of its five fields of operations in the Middle East: Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza, said the officials.

Jordan currently hosts the largest number (38 per cent) of all Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA. Some 23 per cent of the refugees in Jordan live in 10 camps.

UNRWA began operations in May 1950 to give emergency assistance to the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced by the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. The mandate of the agency, deriving from a resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December of 1949, has been renewed over the years. The 15th mandate extends to June 30, 1993, according to UNRWA officials.

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Moroccan economic team due Monday for talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Moroccan trade and economic team is due here Monday for talks with Jordanian officials on means of implementing a trade and tourism agreement signed by Jordan and Morocco last year.

Ministry of Industry and Trade

Deputy Minister Marwan Awad told the Jordan Times that the team represents Morocco's side in the joint follow-up committee

in the course of its efforts to study the agricultural situation in the Kingdom.

He said since the debate might lead to "a vote of no confidence in the government" as pointed out by the head of the Judiciary Committee, Salim al-Zoubi, the deputies had no legal grounds for demanding the list.

There are other means specified in the regulations for con-

Deputies, government squabble over civil service employment, authorities



The Lower House of Parliament in session Wednesday (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

ducting such debates, he said.

Article 104, according to which the deputies made the request, says that important issues of public interest can be debated by the House if 10 deputies or more demand that in a written request.

And since the Finance Committee reported a widespread of "paralysis, favouritism and nepotism" in government bureaucracy, "we request that 'intensifies the social threat of unemployment.'

Echoing Mr. Zoubi, he said the request was for discussing government appointments and the debate might lead to proposing a vote of no confidence but "that is not the reason behind the request."

The House finally decided to debate the deputies' request in its session on Jan. 21 without settling the debate or asking the government to provide the list.

But if the government was to prepare the list, Deputy Abdul Rauf Al Rawabdeh said, it must also provide the House of names of deputies who tried to use their influence in securing jobs for people they favoured.

Failing to settle yet another issue on the floor Wednesday, the House asked its Judiciary Committee for a report on the authorities and jurisdiction of de-

manding the list.

Many deputies have been missing or coming late to House sessions, causing delays and some times failure to meet because of lack of quorum.

Poultry farmers protest low prices

MADABA (Petra) — Poultry farmers Tuesday voiced their complaint about their continued losses due to the decline in the price of poultry meat, and urged the concerned authorities to intervene and help save the farmers from a catastrophe.

Engineer Shaqi Karadsheh, director of one of the poultry farms in the Madaba district, said the farms were selling one kilogramme of poultry at 600 fils in summer and 650 fils in winter but production cost stands at 710 fils in summer and 750 fils in winter.

Madaba district has a total of 67 poultry farms with 665,000 birds, producing nearly 3,000 tonnes of meat annually. Only 2000 tonnes are being consumed, said Mr. Karadsheh.

They also demanded that more slaughter houses be set up around the country to regulate the production and marketing of the poultry meat.

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Lebanese-American writer takes women's, ethnic causes close to her heart

By Ica Wabeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JORDAN — "The customs officer recognises the Arab-, or Turk-, or Japanese-, but the Syrian woman, walking towards connecting flights, made no mistake. She had met an American on the plane."

This last paragraph of an article written by Elmaz Abinader, Lebanese-American writer, appeared in The New York Times under the headline "Here I am an Arab; there an American" — a result of an incident that happened to her at Heathrow Airport. But contrary to what it might suggest, it is not an angry cry against obvious discrimination.

It is not, because in Ms. Abinader's writings she does not assess judgment; rather, she lets the behaviour condemn itself. nor is it not, because the writer is not bitter against life's justices; she only seems determined to correct them.

"It's the gap between my life and my heritage," says Ms. Abinader, now on a tour of the region that will take her to Saudi Arabia and Yemen, besides Jordan, at the invitation of the American Cultural Centre.

Her family's tradition of recording in writing the events of their lives goes back a long way. "Father writes, mother keeps daily journal." (Her father's diaries — he was a trader on the *maan* in the thirties — form the basis of a doctoral dissertation she wrote for the University of Nebraska).

And Ms. Abinader's love for writing and for "the old country" (Lebanon) made it imperative for her to put pen on paper and produce poetry and prose.

I am a poet of identity, of a concern, of a culture, of a story, and these influence the vision of the poetry. More generally, being an Arab-American poet is a political statement that suggests we are, none of us, only writers, but writers whose lives have been fashioned by histories and philosophies and who choose to bring the personal experience of this life into universal terms in the images we write."

This seems to be the personal philosophy of the young writer. But it is not her only tenet. With surprising precision, someone so widely read, with such an eclectic background and with such a cosmopolitan outlook, Ms. Abinader is quick to appropriate Reiner Maria Rilke's creed: It is not important to understand but to live the question rather than to find the answer.

And her book "The Children Of The Roojme, A Family Outing," published in New York in 1991, is an illustration of Ms. Abinader's beliefs.

As the title suggests, the book is an account of a family's ruggles in the Middle East and in America. But, as Lebanese-American author Joseph Geha says in an article, the novel is "more than a chronicle of immigration; it also dramatises the plight of those left behind in Lebanon as they suffered famine, war, plagues of locusts, epidemics and family rivalries. These last were over prestige, mostly, or money, or egos in the church — all fairly petty were they not occurring at the same time that the oppressive Turkish rulers played unmercifully against one another and dealt out violent punishments."

Roojme is a symbolic word; it means a stone terrace, explains the writer, formed of stones thrown in the process of building a house. "The terrace is an important place in our culture," a place where "the family sits watching the night sky, listening to the stories of loved ones."

The stories of her loved ones fed her childhood, says Ms. Abinader, reminiscing how, as a little girl, she would listen to her parents telling stories of "a romantic, mythic place for us, a place where fruit were bigger, water tastier, the mountains higher."

And the recorded stories of her family members are sources for her writings. She is a storyteller, just like them, but she

Syria's old cars never die, just soar in price

By Issam Hamza

Reuter

AMASCUS — Nader Kali sold the car of his dreams after hunting birds in a Syrian desert in 1988.

It was a wreck.

In a country where cars never die Kali saw the paradox, parts-shattered 1932 Ford Eight Special Saloon as a treasure — buried under more than four decades of undisturbed dust.

"It took me two years of arduous work to restore and repair the car," said Kali, accustomed to bringing jalopies back from the dead in his work as a spare-parts dealer.

The ban assures buyers of old cars a smart return on their investment even after more than a generation of rugged use.

But forty years of wealth have changed Kuwaitis and after school Wednesday the rink is crowded with teenagers, girls and boys together, vying to show off their skating skills.

In summer the temperature outside might be over 50 degrees Celsius (120 Fahrenheit) but inside the vast Olympic-size hall it is a constant 15 degrees (59 Fahrenheit) and 33 miles (53 km) of underground piping keeps the ice frozen.

Mr. Bannay said it cost the state-owned Touristic Enterprises Company up to 30,000 dinars (\$100,000) a year in electricity to keep the climate at bay, far more than in temperate countries.

With loudspeakers blaring music by M.C. Hammer and a video games arcade in its cafeteria, the rink is indeed a piece of modernity used to reconcile with the culture of a country where

there was once something you could buy in travel books.

Kali said his painstaking restoration work, aided by the wizardry of local mechanics as well as parts ordered at great cost from the United States, paid off in the end.

The four-cylinder Ford, believed to be Syria's oldest roadworthy car, "now has a market value of \$50,000," he said.

A government ban on car imports for individual buyers is a strong incentive to resurrect and maintain vintage vehicles.

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But with about 440 customers on an average day, the

rink is making a profit. If it did not, the state would probably cover the losses to keep the young off the streets and out of trouble.

For the rink is one of the few places in the city where boys and girls can mix in public away from their elders — a practice which the management seems to encourage.

"This is a very modern place. We don't want to say 'this is forbidden, this is forbidden,'" said Mr. Bannay.

The rink even gives girls a 30 per cent discount on season tickets to try to even out the numbers. "We get more boys than girls, which is not very surprising. In the old days girls didn't come out of their houses," said one of the staff.

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Instant knowledge

By Jean-Claude Elias

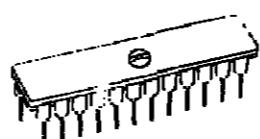
The Personal Computers — PCs — with their virtually limitless possibilities, often give their users an euphoric feeling of power and polyvalence. Power because PCs can easily store and process enormous amounts of data and at very high speed, polyvalence because of the many different types of tasks one can perform on a computer.

From word processing to data bases, spreadsheets to engineering, drawing to music, management to real-time machines control, communications to games, the programmes available to the user of modern PCs cover an amazingly wide and diversified range. And because of the relatively low cost of these programmes — software — one is understandably tempted to get most of them.

However getting a programme to draw architectural sketches won't make an architect out of a layman, at least not overnight. It's surprising how people with a reasonable dose of intelligence and common sense, lose touch with reality and logic when it comes to computers, as if caught by a spell. Ask them if a pen and a few sheets of paper will make anyone an Ernest Hemingway, and you will certainly get a negative reply. But they will probably believe that a PC with a nice drawing software will get them closer to Leonardo Da Vinci. Where did common sense go?

I have experimented with practically all types of software, only to find that specialised programmes are designed for specialised people. Try to use AutoCad, an engineering drawing package, without understanding the basics of technical drawing and you will get nowhere. Or a MIDI — Music Instrument Digital Interface — programme, without being able to play a single piece of music. Naturally one can always go through the demonstrations and pre-stored drawings or music pieces that every smart

chip talk



software developer integrates into their work in order to promote it, and you will have the very pleasant but how deceptive feeling of having achieved something.

Computer dealers in Jordan often have to argue with their clients who want "...every software that can go on the hard disk..." especially if the said software is pirated and costs nothing. One of the advantages of using original software that you pay for, is precisely the fact that you think twice before buying it and therefore get only what you really need or think you can effectively use.

Instant knowledge does not exist, neither at college nor with computers. If learning through PCs can be more fun and motivating than with traditional books at school or university, the process is nevertheless similar and requires a lot of work. There is absolutely nothing wrong in acquiring a PC with a drawing software for someone who is not an artist, provided he or she realises that there is a learning process to go through, and that this process requires as much work and creativity as a more traditional method. Like a pen, a paintbrush, a pocket calculator or a guitar, the PC is just another tool.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Jan. 14

1784 — United States ratifies peace treaty with England, formally ending American war of independence.

1907 — Earthquake in Jamaica destroys Kingston and takes 1,000 lives.

1942 — Forces under U.S. general Douglas MacArthur resist Japanese attacks on Batavia in Philippines in World War II.

1962 — At least 36 Algerians and Europeans are killed in disorders and terrorist attacks in Algeria's major cities.

1988 — Ten Palestinians detained in Jerusalem in apparent clampdown on Arab activists.

1990 — Azerbaijani attacks on Armenians leave hundreds dead in Baku, Soviet Union.

1992 — Israel opens peace talks with Jordan and resumes bargaining with Palestinians.

Friday, Jan. 15

1535 — King Henry VIII assumes title of "supreme head of the church" in England.

1877 — Austria agrees to remain neutral in event of Russo-Turkish war.

1932 — France completes pacification of French Morocco.

1943 — Japanese forces are driven from Guadalcanal island in Pacific in World War II.

1966 — Death count surpasses 400 as flood refugees begin returning to hillside homes in Brazil's capital of Rio de Janeiro.

1973 — Pope Paul VI tells Israel's Prime Minister Golda Meir at vatican he supports an international Jerusalem.

1986 — Communist Party chief Mikhail S. Gorbachev proposes plan for "ridding the Earth of nuclear weapons within 15 years."

1989 — Riot police in Prague, Czechoslovakia, use water cannon and dogs to disperse at least 2,000 people who defy ban on independent rallies.

1991 — U.N. deadline for withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait passes without incident, as efforts by French and others to resolve crisis diplomatically fail.

1992 — EC recognises Slovenia and Croatia as independent states.

Saturday, Jan. 16

1666 — France, allied with Holland, declares war on England.

1964 — Austria and Prussia send ultimatum to Denmark for repeal of constitution calling for incorporation of Schleswig.

1969 — Soviet cosmonauts achieve first linkup of two manned spaceships while in orbit around Earth.

1973 — United States and South Vietnam declare ceasefire in Vietnam war in hopes of full peace pact.

1979 — Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlevi flees Iran after new civilian government is approved in parliament.

1991 — U.S. and U.N. allies launch airstrike against targets in Iraq and Kuwait nineteen hours after U.N. deadline passes at 12:00 midnight, EST, using fighters Ise.

and heavy bombers; attack is deemed successful by U.S. and undetermined military and industrial targets are reported destroyed.

1992 — Two PLO leaders are shot.

Sunday, Jan. 17

1759 — Holy Roman empire declares war on Prussia.

1852 — Sand River convention establishes South African Republic of Transvaal.

1959 — Federal state of Mali is formed by union of republics of Senegal and French Sudan.

1990 — Medellin Cartel says it has lost drug war and offers skeptical U.S. and Colombian authorities an end of terror in exchange for pardon.

1991 — Second and third airstrikes against targets in Iraq and Kuwait are launched; at least six Iraqi Scud missiles are launched at Tel Aviv, Israel, and three explode in that city; White House calls on Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait in exchange for end to hostilities.

1992 — Israel began enforcing a sweeping curfew on Palestinians from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip.

Monday, Jan. 18

1701 — Brandenburg's Frederick III is crowned Frederick I, King of Prussia.

1913 — Greek and Turkish naval forces battle off Tenedos Isle.

1918 — Russian constitutional assembly opens in Petrograd.

1952 — Anti-British riots break out in Egypt.

1963 — Government of Charles de Gaulle in France insists that Britain be barred from European Common Market.

1966 — Fierce fighting in South Yemen's capital city of Aden interrupts evacuation of foreigners.

Wednesday Jan. 20

1262 — England's parliament meets for first time.

1925 — Soviet Union and Japan form alliance; Britain and China sign treaty of Peking.

1958 — Soviet Union threatens Greece with economic sanctions if it agrees to the installation of NATO missile bases on Greek territory.

1968 — President Arif's regime in Iraq is deposed, and new government is formed under Al Bakr.

1989 — George Bush becomes the 41st president of the United States.

1990 — Soviet troops storm Azerbaijani capital of Baku, leaving dozens dead and wounded, as President Mikhail Gorbachev defends action on national television.

1991 — In Moscow, hundreds of thousands of Soviet citizens protest bloody crackdown on Lithuania and demand resignation of Gorbachev.

By The Associated Press

The lonely stranger

By Roufan Nahhas

Special to the Jordan Times

A man living in the streets of Amman carries lottery tickets in one hand and a walking stick in the other. He roams with no destination in mind, stopping at every corner to gaze at the cars passing by, looking deeply inside your eyes wondering if you will notice his existence, stop for a moment and ask for your ticket to untold wealth.

His name is Khaled and he was pushed onto the streets after an accident at his place of work prevented him from working anywhere except perhaps on the streets as a lottery ticket vendor.

"No one wants me to work for him because I look like this," he said, showing me his half-leg which brought to my mind scenes from a war movie.

"I am doing fine now and maybe I will have the chance to win the big prize," he said with a smile, asking me if I wanted to buy a ticket.

I stopped, amazed for a moment, and unconsciously (unaware of my movements) opened my wallet, took the last two dinars and gave them to him. He gave me the lottery ticket saying "insha'allah terbah" (God willing you'll win).

For a second I thought this conversation was about to end, but I managed to draw his attention back to me by asking about his family. He looked at me with surprise. Putting the tickets down, he bent his small body and relaxed on the pavement. I sat next to him wondering what things he will say to a complete stranger. He started

speaking in a low voice about how his elder son, who works at a company, brings his friends to the house without permission from the father. Even his little girl, who is still at school, never listens to him.

For a moment I wanted to stand up and leave behind this man's sufferings, but I could not. I thought he needed someone to talk to.

He went on talking about the unsolved problems he faced with his wife, who also happens to be his cousin and who evidently demands a lot of things. He said his wife began her day by cursing her parents for forcing her to marry him. There was sadness and deep unhappiness in his litany of family problems. He said he hated to go home to relax simply because it is never easy to relax in a two-room house with seven children shouting and his wife constantly yelling back at them.

"I live here and I am not ashamed of that. In fact I have a lot of friends and I do not need a family," he said.

I kept listening while he seemed never to be able to stop. His pride and dignity made him repeat "I don't need anyone" over and over.

I stood up trying to find the appropriate words to help alleviate his pain. But the only words I could come up with were the dry, commonplace: Don't worry, man. Everyone has their problems. Things will change for the better. insha'allah.

A car stopped beside us and without a word Khaled stood up with dignity and, using his walking cane, moved towards the car hoping to sell his lottery tickets.



Gloom buster

By E. Yaghi

When you're down and feeling blue,
When you're sad and don't know what to do...
Who do you call? The Gloom Buster!

Everybody loves the Laugh Man for he's a gloom buster. He shoots laughter from his penetrating laser like Tinkle Bells sprinkles magic. He lives in a mystic land of Nod on top of the Big Rock Candy Mountain where chocolate bars are stacked to the stars and you stand right there a-a-countain. He hates gloom and depression and most of all, tears. His enemies are frowns and ill intentions that tend to flourish in the minds of many. He listens attentively for his sensitive beeper which he keeps pinned to his shirt to bleep a signal of someone in distress who suffers from a bout of gloom. As soon as he is notified of such a case, he zooms away from his mountain abode in his golden chariot drawn by two white unicorns and rushes to the scene of the latest crime of not smiling.

The only fee the Laugh Man charges is a smile or at least a downpayment of a willingness to participate in such an effort. So, his services are free and his reward is to see happiness replace the folds of fret. He catches his laughter from Dream River where men who sail down this emerald passageway can be whatever they want, and from falling stars which he gathers pieces of and puts...in his pocket for a rainy day.

Last week was a routine one for the Laugh Man. First, he heard a baby crying. He flew to the scene and there, was a tiny tot who had just had his candy stolen from him. Whoever said "like stealing candy from a baby," overexaggerated, for the Laugh Man knows how much a baby howls when something he likes is taken away. Immediately, the Laugh Man placed a red and white sugar cane in the baby's small chubby hand and with a zip of his laser, erased the tears that had stained the cheeks of the little victim and replaced them with a glowing smile and the happy ring of baby laughter.

Next, he visited a student who was worried about passing an exam. He approached the youth who had his head sunk in his hands as he sat beneath the shade of an eucalyptus tree and asked, "What's wrong, son?"

The boy inquisitively looked up at the smiling Laugh Man and replied, "I'm so afraid I'm not going to pass my exams! What will I ever do if I fail?"

"Why you'll simply try harder next time, my friend. It's not as if your passing or failing is the end of the world!"

And he beamed his sleight of hand in a swirl of pink and left the young scholar with a happy smile and a seed of hope in his heart. Then he visited a sad writer who stared gloomily out of his office window with a tear trickling down his literary face. "Pray tell me, what's wrong with you, Sir Author?"

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Everybody loves the Laugh Man. He is a welcome guest, that visits too seldom but he is right there dwelling in the hearts of all good folk in the world, they just have to look for him. Remember, if you're blue and don't know what to do, just call, "The Gloom Buster!"

Author spun around on his heels and replied with a sulky scowl, "Oh, woe is me! The grief in my heart spins itself into sorrowful tales. What can I do?"

"Well, you know something, Mr. Author? You're stories really are sad, even your explanations for their sadness are sad," and before he could even zap joy on the writer, they both broke out in a roar of laughter. He left the literary man with tears running down his face. However, they weren't tears of unhappiness, but caused by a fit of mirth.

And when he heard of an old widow woman moaning because she had so many children that she had not known what to do and now was all alone and no one to care for her, he appeared right beside her and spoke in a loud voice so she could hear, "Dear lady, why do you groan so?"

He noticed her hands were worn from knitting and cooking and cleaning and washing for her so many children and her face was knotted in creases of worry. "I have no one to share my lonely moments with! My children are all gone and grown and now when they don't need me, they forgot that I exist. It will be a good thing if they come for my funeral. This is what I get for all my hard work and sacrifice to raise them the best way I knew how!"

"There, there now!" the Laugh Man coaxed. A look of concern replaced his usual happy countenance and he said aloud, "I'll just have to see these ungrateful offsprings for myself."

He zoomed off in his chariot of gold without even remembering to flash laughter around the elderly one and went to each of her children where he said to them one by one. "Shame on you! Did you forget all the work your old mother did for you? Go at once and love and take care of her!"

Before he left, he made sure to witness the scene of all her brood converging on her and the largest smile he ever saw replaced all the lines of worry that had been on her face.

On the way home, he stopped off at the hospital for minor repairs, for even the Laugh Man needs medical attention once in a while. The doctor told him in a stern voice but ending with a kindly smile, "You've been neglecting yourself again. You work too hard, spreading happiness. You must rest here for a few days!"

So, the Laugh Man spent a few calm and peaceful days in the hospital and before he left in, complete healthy recovery, he had every nurse, doctor and even janitors going around with big grins on their faces and were confronted with an epidemic of contagious laughter.

Everybody loves the Laugh Man. He is a welcome guest, that visits too seldom but he is right there dwelling in the hearts of all good folk in the world, they just have to look for him. Remember, if you're blue and don't know what to do, just call, "The Gloom Buster!"

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday Jan. 14

8:30 Uncle Buck

9:10 The Human Factor

Hear No Evil

A famous surgeon tries to place blame on one of the students but eventually accepts it himself.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

The Guys

Heir to Muppets' empire maintains legacy

By Robert Shelton
LONDON — Brian Henson, 29-year-old president and chief executive officer of the production company that makes the world merrier with its charming puppets called *The Muppets*, sees his team as "an extended family." But the son of the late company

founder Jim Henson is also aware that he's the head of an international empire — with studios for TV and film production in London, New York and Los Angeles.

"We were the first TV producers to be able to claim our work has been seen in more than 100 countries,"

Henson said. The *Muppets*, from Kermit the Frog to Miss Piggy, he explained, "are timeless, eccentric and not trendy. They can appeal to millions in different cultures." Henson, who has an open, cheerful face for an international tycoon, makes it clear that he dearly wishes he were not in his present job — not that he doesn't enjoy it. He ascended to the Muppets throne at the untimely death of his father two and a half years ago. "He'd been working very hard, as usual," Henson said. "He came down with the flu and died in a day. He was only 53, and it was a tremendous shock for all of us."

Thirty-five years ago Jim Henson pioneered his spectacular menagerie of creatures and unique brand of technical wizardry that has delighted children and adults on the world's TV and cinema screens. Brian Henson first got involved in the company in 1981, when he was 17, during a summer break from boarding school, and worked on the feature film "The Great Muppet Caper."

At 20, he joined the company full-time, performing marionettes and handling puppeteering and directing. He led a team of puppeteers who performed Hoggle in the feature film "Labyrinth" in 1986. Later that year, he was co-supervisor of the crew of 40 performers required to manipulate Audrey II, a giant, man-eating star of the film "Little Shop Of Horrors."

Henson's other credits in-

clude puppeteering in "The Muppets Take Manhattan" (1984), Disney's "Return To Oz" and "Santa Claus: The Movie" (both in 1985). In 1990, he was puppeteer coordinator in the Jim Henson/Nic Roeg film "The Witches." And the widely seen film "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" (1991) had Henson as chief puppeteer and second unit director. Along with these feature films, TV also kept him busy. He performed in the Emmy award-winning "Storyteller" series and its sequel, "Greek Myths." He got another Emmy for outstanding direction of a children's programme for the "Mother Goose Stories" and is currently co-executive producer of the *Dinosaurs* TV series.

"Everyone thinks that because the Muppet puppets are so direct and uncomplicated that putting together a Muppet show is easy," Henson said. "If they could only know what goes on behind the screen, or under the screen, to get things coordinated, correctly timed. I suppose it's got to do with the art of concealing art, as the old saying goes."

The young production executive likens the Muppets to a family, with most of the Henson clan deeply involved in the father's legacy. Brian's brother John has done "some puppeteering." His eldest sister Lisa was, until recently, a senior vice president of production at the Warner Brothers film/TV studios. His sister Cheryl is a vice president of Henson productions.

American by parentage,

Henson married a Scotswoman, Ellis Flyte. "We've lived in London for the last eight years, but now I frequently visit our New York and Los Angeles studios. I don't have too much to do with the Los Angeles scene of smart parties, and I don't particularly feel at home with the cigar-smoking producers and businessmen of Hollywood. There is always business to be done, but I frankly prefer the creative side of things," he said with candor.

Of particular pride to him are the fine reviews and good box office enjoyed by the recent release of the "Muppet Christmas Carol," based on Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

This is the first Henson feature film in eight years and Henson's first as top producer and director. "Working with Michael Caine and the puppets was a great pleasure. He is such an excellent actor, and all those closeups of him as Scrooge are great because of the subtlety of his acting," Henson explained.

A sign at the Henson studios in a former post office in Hampstead, North London, neatly sums up the approach of the Muppet team: "Adults at Play." Down in Camden Town, there's another studio — called Jim Henson's Creature Shop — where much of the elaborate costuming, sets and background fixtures are designed and made.

"Christmas Carol" is the first time in Muppet history that the puppets worked on a story not specially written for them. "We liked the idea of accepting the Muppets as



A scene from "The Muppet Christmas Carol"

celebrities," Henson explained. "We chose Dickens because it's a classic story, but also liked the idea of mixing the irreverent wit of the Muppets with the somewhat dark world of Dickens. It's a story of redemption, of the miser Scrooge, but there is also room for fun amid some of the scary ghost tales. I think the Muppets' comedy works so well in a dramatic story," he added. Critics and audiences are showing they agree.

With so much on Henson's agenda, you wonder how he can keep track of it all. Muppet sequences for the 23-year-old *Sesame Street* television series will, of course, continue. The *Dinosaurs* series will continue to be made in London and, in a few months, "Dog City," a new Muppet TV series, will start. Henson is particularly excited about plans to convert the fairy tale-oriented musical "Into The Woods" by Stephen Sondheim into a live-action movie. And the original "Pinocchio" story is soon to go into production, in association with famed Hollywood filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola. "He was planning 'Pinocchio,' and so were we," Henson explained. "We decided to work together rather than compete with the same story."

The Muppet team is quick to refer always to "the legacy of Jim," but are in high morale with his eldest son, Jim Nelson, a puppeteer, commented. "Brian certainly has his dad's ability and insight, and he has his own vision as well. We all went to work in a way that would have pleased Jim. Brian above all."

"We all wanted to make sure we could continue my dad's legacy," the new Muppet master added. "We're all here now to prove to ourselves and the world that we can — and that Jim Henson's magic lives on" — World News Link.

Brian Henson is proudly following in his father's footsteps, adding on new projects

From Germany to Grenada, Elvis stamps rock around the world

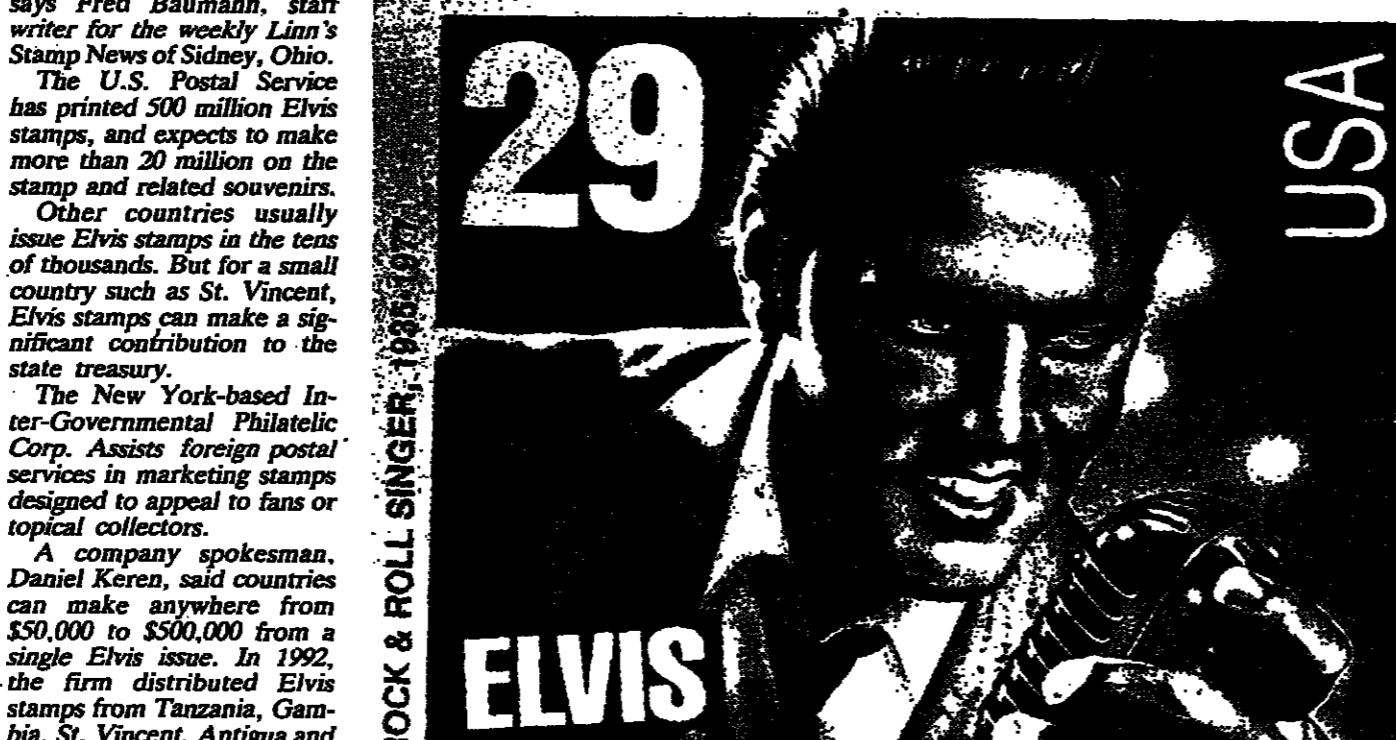
By Charles J. Gans
The Associated Press
NEW YORK — Young Elvis the rockabilly, old Elvis the lounge-lizard, patriotic Elvis in an army uniform fans can find almost any portrait of "the king" they like on Elvis Presley from around the world.

The U.S. postal service, whose 29-cent Presley commemorative stamp went on sale Friday, is a relative late-comer in the race to cash in on Elvis' likeness.

At least 13 countries and territories have put Elvis on their stamps, ranging from West Germany to tiny Caribbean islands.

Their postal services weren't constrained by the U.S. requirement of waiting at least 10 years after a person's death to issue a stamp. Some countries don't even wait for a celebrity to die. Last year, the Caribbean island nation of St. Vincent put out a nine-stamps of Madonna in various poses.

"I guess the United States has come around to seeing what other countries have already found out — that there is a great profit to be made by putting popular people like Elvis on a stamp,"



The winning stamp design of the stamp that went on sale in the Elvis Presley commemorative U.S. this week

its stamps — they showed Elvis in all the stages of his career — as a young rocker with a pompadour, a clean-cut soldier and puffy-faced

Las Vegas showman. "Entertainment is a big field right now in stamps," said company president Richard Ellis. "Elvis stamps sell very well."

The first attempt to issue an Elvis stamp — as in the United States — was controversial.

Ellis' company, Rock & Roll Singing Stamps, has sold 100,000 of the new stamps.

Moscow's rock-opera 'Hamlet' reflects crisis of change

By James Flannery
Reuter
MOSCOW — An apocalyptic vision of Russia as a brutal Fascist wasteland is stunning Moscow audiences at a heavy-metal version of the classic tragedy "Hamlet."

Bewildered traditionalists walk out as a deafening rock show adds far more sex, sordid and sadism than William Shakespeare imagined at Denmark's corrupt court.

Most spectators are too numb to applaud at the end of a no-interval, three-hour orgy of relentless music and political parable, enacted by zombie-like survivors of disaster.

"Death, death, death," scream witches who seem to have wandered in from "Macbeth."

The show drastically rearranges but retains the basic plot: troubled Hamlet seeks to avenge the murder of his father, the king, by a usurping uncle who has swiftly

married the young prince's mother.

"Who made this farago?" shouted an angry customer at the end of a preview in a studio at the Moscow Arts Theatre, custodian of conventional stage classics.

"All the words are Shakespeare's," replied controversial creator-director Sergei Kurginyan.

Cut and reedited, this "Hamlet" has the genesis of a "conservative intellectual" troubled by the uncharted path of pro-democracy market reform.

The backdrop is a huge tattered and holed cloth the shape of Russia's map.

Moscow appears to have been destroyed. The time is the indefinite future, after a catastrophe.

The stage is littered with animal skulls and witchcraft implements of shamanists, the sorcerer-priests who lead Siberian tribes in animist rituals for the spirits of the forest.

Western pragmatism troubles them. They see no ideology or structure in reforms.

A revolution has occurred.

a ruler is overthrown. Crowds topple his statue, Russian style, as when the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution succeeded and the 1991 Kremlin coup failed.

A primitive state descends further into barbarism.

The play closes as in Shakespeare's version with the stage littered in corpses — but with none of the original's resolution. The audience is left with a sense of a darkness without end.

Whatever its artistic merits, "Hamlet" reflects current dismay among many intellectuals, for centuries pampered elite, now neglected.

Western pragmatism troubles them. They see no ideology or structure in reforms.

under a veneer of democracy.

Russia, he said, was attempting a profound change in its culture and society for only the third or fourth time in history, but the proclaimed objectives "will lead to a new type of life which is death, a transformation that is impossible."

They fear a loss of "Russianness." Keeping a sense of a unique national spirit and identity matters to Russians, a deeply patriotic people.

"The free-market economy is a myth," said Kurginyan in an interview after the final night of the show's pre-opening run.

Russia, he said, could only switch to "an Asian type of economy," but this transition would "bring Fascism and nothing else."

He said Japan, the world's second richest state, was not a model for it contained monolithic companies and a virtual power monopoly

clamped uneasily, as they see it, on a country unsuited to them by its nature and history.

Kurginyan, trained as a mathematician and geophysicist, brushes aside suggestions that his brash "Hamlet," with a bohemian-dissident flavour, has Western box office ingredients.

"My highest success can only be in Russia," he says.

A non-conformist conservative democrat, he is a maverick on the theatrical scene. His last production, "The Shepherd," about dictator Josef Stalin, ran into trouble with Moscow authorities.

He said the show was forced to close in November because its use of the now discarded Soviet national anthem brought some in the audience to their feet.

Tokyo grooms home-grown designers

By Yoko Kobayashi
Reuter

TOKYO — Struggling young fashion designers are being offered a superb deal — they provide the designs and a group of city businesses lay on everything else they need to stage a top-class fashion show.

The first legitimate Elvis stamps — eight stamps and a souvenir sheet — were issued by St. Vincent in 1985.

In 1988, West Germany

issued a stamp with the older

Elvis

— in a gold-and-blue

Las Vegas costume

— in a

series

on rock stars with John Lennon, Jim Morrison and Buddy Holly. Part of the proceeds went to pay for youth projects.

Other countries that have issued Elvis stamps include Guinea, the Central African Republic, Dominica, Madagascar, Comoros and Congo, according to Baumann.

Baumann cautions that so many Elvis stamps have been issued that they don't make particularly good investments.

"They're good as keepsakes," he said. "If Elvis has a warm place in your heart, you'll enjoy having his face on a stamp."

In 1978, just a year after

"the king's" death, a private

firm working with Grenada

printed a stamp with a youthful Elvis framed in a guitar, but the government of the Caribbean island nation repudiated the stamp and it was never valid as postage, said Baumann. Grenada issued an Elvis stamp last year.

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on rock stars with John Lennon, Jim Morrison and Buddy Holly. Part of the proceeds went to pay for youth projects.

The aim is to nurture young designers who have lots of ideas but not enough money by providing the stage they need to show off their talent, and promote Tokyo as a fashion capital at the same time.

"Someone had to take on

the role of an incubator," said Nobuyuki Ota, chairman of Tokyo's Council of Fashion Designers (CFD).

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CFD held its first such show, called "Tokyo Collection Annex" last month. It was sponsored by Toyota, Tobe Stores and Ikebukuro Terminal Building.

Most up-and-coming designers are products of the 1980s designer fashion boom, signed up by apparel manufacturers to come up with designer brands.

But with many of the

manufacturers unable to

establish their brand names,

most projects ended in failure, leaving young designers with little training and only cancelled contracts.

"Japanese firms invest all

at once, then suddenly withdraw," Mr. Ota said. "But in the U.S. they do it gradually and, if it succeeds, then they really invest."

These setbacks forced the

young designers to set up

their own offices in Tokyo's

fashion district and hold their

own shows, which became

increasingly expensive as the

city's office rents soared.

But Mr. Ota recognises

that young talent has to be

nurtured if Tokyo is to be

come a fashion centre.

"The rise of new designers

is essential to revitalise any

PLO seen to have 'apologised' to Saudis

(Continued from page 1)
and Fatah Central Committee speaks in public, that definitely means that he is speaking on the record and in the name of the organisation," said a senior PLO official in Amman who preferred anonymity. Abu Mazen is one of the senior leaders of Fatah and its central committee.

PLO members here also believe that Abu Mazen would not have spoken the words unless he had some positive indications from the Saudis themselves and that a warming of Saudi-PLO relations could follow.

However, PLO insiders do not expect an overnight mending of the strain in Saudi-PLO relations and an immediate Arafat visit to Saudi Arabia to seal reconciliation.

"There are other issues to be sorted out before such things could happen," said an informed PLO source. "There is the issue of Palestinian 'liberation' tax and other financial matters that need to be settled."

"Liberation" tax is levied by the host Arab governments from Palestinian expatriates working in their countries and given to the PLO.

The Gulf states were the main financial backers of the PLO until the Gulf crisis. The

strain in relations caused by the PLO's stand was immediately followed by a suspension of all financial assistance to the PLO by the Gulf states and as a result the PLO is finding itself in dire financial straits.

The organisation has been forced to adopt a strict belt-tightening approach to its finances and cut many aid programmes, including assistance given to families of martyrs.

Mohammad Milhem, a former of the PLO Executive Committee, described Abu Mazen's "apology" as "outrageous."

"If this is indeed an apology then it is not acceptable," said Mr. Milhem, a former mayor of Halhoul in the West Bank who was expelled by the Israeli occupation authorities.

"There is no reason why the PLO should have to apologise for its stand during the Gulf crisis any more than Jordan should have to," he told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Milhem said Jordan had taken an honourable stand in refusing to apologise to the Gulf states for its position vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis.

"Next thing you know we will be apologising to the Israelis for fighting the occupation of our land," Mr. Milhem said.

Israel offers to open nuclear, other sites

(Continued from page 1)
East," Mr. Eagleburger said. He said it was important for nations to tackle the challenge of weapons of mass destruction wherever possible.

"I would therefore urge the members of the Arab League to seize this opportunity and sign the chemical weapons convention," Mr. Eagleburger said.

"Doing so would be a step towards, and not away from, making the Middle East a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, as called for by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt."

Mr. Eagleburger said that so long as there are holdouts, doubts will be raised as to these nations' intentions.

"Nowhere is this more important today than in the Middle East, a region which over the past 30 years has been home to more active chemical weapons programmes — and which has seen more chemical weapons use — than any other part of the world," he said.

"It is therefore particularly disappointing that so many Middle Eastern states are absent from this ceremony today."

Iraq is the only state besides the United States and Russia that admits owning chemical weapons. Iraqi officials have said Iraq will not sign the treaty and about a majority of Arab states is taking the same position.

A major purpose of the agreement was to curb a new Middle East arms race following the Gulf war two years ago and the disclosure of Iraq's chemical arsenal.

The U.N. convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons features revolutionary verification procedures meant to ensure that no state will be able to make or conceal large stocks of deadly chemical agents.

For the first time, international inspectors will be empowered to search "anywhere, anytime" for suspected chemical arms. Signatories will have no right to refuse access to production plants, military bases or stores.

"This represents a real progress for international security. It is the first real multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of mass destruction weapons," a senior French official said.

The treaty imposes tough supervision on the international chemical industry, which helped in the drafting and welcomed the curbs on Wednesday, despite their likely cost.

Christopher

(Continued from page 1)

new arms control agreements, particularly concerning weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Christopher's confirmation hearings are expected to go for two days with questions from both Democrats and Republicans, at which time he may reveal in more detail the Clinton administration's policy vis-a-vis the Middle East.

Mr. Christopher said the Clinton administration would try to build on the accomplishments of President George Bush, who leaves office next Wednesday.

Mr. Christopher cited the Middle East peace talks which brought Israel and Arabs to the table for the first time, the START treaty reducing nuclear weapons delivery systems, and the Gulf war.

Mr. Christopher said that despite the unity between the Bush and Clinton administrations on Iraq, the United States must "have a new diplomacy that can anticipate and prevent a crises like those in Iraq and Bosnia and Somalia, rather than simply manage them."

"We can't afford to careen from crisis to crisis," he said.

He said the Clinton team would urge the United Nations to handle major international crises, but echoing a Bush policy, he added, "Ultimately, when our vital interests are at stake, we'll always reserve our option to act alone."

Israel seeks to thwart U.N. sanctions

(Continued from page 1)
the return of all evictees. Dr. Ghali has threatened the United Nations could take further steps.

Mr. Peres said he expected to meet U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger in Paris, Israel is counting on the United States, its closest ally, to block sanctions with its veto in the Security Council.

The Israeli daily newspaper HaShabot said Mr. Rabin wanted to delay a Security Council debate until after U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton took office next Wednesday.

The unsourced story gave no reason for this and Mr. Rabin's spokesman declined comment. Outgoing President George Bush would face less political risk blocking sanctions than Mr. Clinton would.

Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo demanded Tuesday the United Nations impose sanctions if Israel did not comply. They did not adopt a Palestinian suggestion that they suspend the 14-month-old Middle East peace talks.

Spokesman Hanan Ashrawi said she and four other Palestinian peace negotiators met four members of the Israeli Knesset (parliament) Tuesday in Arab East Jerusalem for informal discussions.

"We said we are unable to return to negotiations unless Israel returns the (evictees) and implements Resolution 799," Dr. Ashrawi told Reuters.

Allied planes attack Iraqi sites

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Hamdoun said: "I just called in to the president of the Security Council that Iraq will stop transferring its property from Umm Qasr in the demilitarised zone until resolving the problems that are outstanding with the UNIKOM people (U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission) over there."

He also said that Iraq would "approve the flight requests for the special commission planes to Iraq," a reference to U.N. aircraft which demolition teams to Baghdad.

Iraq last week ordered a temporary halt to any further U.N. flights over its territory, saying weapons destruction teams and other U.N. personnel should charter Iraqi commercial airliners or travel overland.

Mr. Hamdoun said the United Nations would have to take responsibility for the safety of those flights "in case of a military attack against Iraq."

Earlier Wednesday, Iraqi salvagers crossed into Umm Qasr for a fourth consecutive day to retrieve material from a former navy base.

What used to be Iraqi warehouses were without roofs or windows, and a bunker that housed Silkworm missiles was swept clean except for empty wooden boxes and old Iraqi newspapers and booklets.

"Four of the six bunkers are totally empty, while one has conventional anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons and another has small bottles of unidentified chemicals," said Abdul Latif Kababji, spokesman for UNIKOM patrolling the disputed border since April 1991.

A senior Kuwaiti official said

he hoped the allied military action against Iraq would prevent further "miscalculations" by Baghdad.

"What I hope is that the Iraqi regime will avoid their continued miscalculations. As a small country that is what we are hoping for," Suleiman Majed Al Shahin, the Foreign Ministry under-secretary, said in a telephone interview.

He said Kuwait had demanded that Iraq comply with ceasefire terms to which Baghdad itself had agreed.

A spokesman for President Saddam Hussein defiantly pledged earlier Wednesday that Iraq was determined to recover Kuwait as an "integral part of the Gulf war."

"The treacherous people have returned after less than two years to commit aggression against Iraq to undermine what has been reconstructed by the brave Mujahideen," it said.

Defence Minister Ali Hassan Al Majed told President Saddam Hussein that his soldiers

were standing firm in their defence of the country.

At 1700 GMT — when media reports said the allied planes were attacking targets in Iraq — state radio began its news bulletin with an item about aid to Palestinians in Jordan.

After the news, the radio carried a quotation from President Saddam — "Baghdad will remain a beacon for Muslims and a support for Palestine."

Later the radio reported: "Criminal Bush seems to be bracing himself for a fresh aggression against Iraq." It said Iraq had declared it would "respond with every available means in defence of its independence."

As U.S. media reported that Washington and its allies had sent planes to attack missiles stationed in southern Iraq, Mr. Majed sent President Saddam a telegram to mark Sunday's second anniversary of the start of the Gulf war.

"The treacherous people have returned after less than two years to commit aggression against Iraq to undermine what has been reconstructed by the brave Mujahideen," it said.

Asked what would happen if the deputies refused, he said: "I should offer my resignation."

A British U.N. peacekeeper was killed Wednesday in central Bosnia, and Sarajevoans bitterly dismissed news of the breakthrough in peace talks in Geneva as more maneuvering by the Serbs.

Wednesday's fighting in the central Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf was reportedly between Muslim and Croat forces, underscoring the shakiness of their nominal alliance against the Serbs.

The British peacekeeper was killed by small-arms fire in the town, but the identity of the attackers was not immediately known, a Ministry of Defence spokesman in London said. The latest death means 23 U.N.

peacekeepers have been killed in fighting in the former Yugoslavia.

Sarajevo spent a relatively peaceful night after the announcement late Tuesday that Mr. Karadzic had reversed his earlier opposition to the Geneva peace plan.

But Sarajevo residents bitterly dismissed Mr. Karadzic's move, and some accused the international community of papering over differences in a way that Mr. Karadzic and Mr. Milosevic would later exploit to ensure continued Serb control over most of Bosnia.

At least 17,000 people have been killed since Bosnian Serbs took up arms after the republic's majority Muslims and Croats voted for independence from Yugoslavia. Bosnian Serb irregulars, backed by Serbia, have seized about 70 per cent of Bosnia's territory.

Bosnian leader optimistic of peace plan

(Continued from page 1)
negotiations if they continued to press for their own state-within-a-state.

But in what some diplomats said was a potential let-out clause, Mr. Karadzic said he needed seven days grace to win the approval of the assembly of his self-styled "Serb republic."

That approval was immediately put in doubt. Biljana Plavsic, vice-president of the Serb republic, said hours after Mr. Karadzic's agreement that the deputies would reject it.

Mr. Karadzic replied: "I also have some anxiety about that but I do believe I will get a majority. I'm sure I will not have a unanimous decision of our parliament, that's what shows the reaction of Mrs. Plavsic."

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Noor Al Hussein Foundation The National Music Conservatory

January 1993 Programme

January 20, 21, 24, 25 and 27

from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

A CONCISE HISTORY OF WESTERN MUSIC

A series of five lectures presented by Professor Robert Curry (The lectures include extensive audio musical examples).

Place: The National Music Conservatory
Registration Fee: JD 15.

Saturday, 23 January 1993 - 8:00 p.m.
PIANO RECITAL

Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein. Ammar Ali Hachicho, a young Arab concert pianist living between Bonn and Moscow, will perform a very colorful and enjoyable program. The program includes pieces by: Bach, Beethoven, Bartok, Tchaikovsky and Liszt.

Place: The Royal Cultural Centre
Main Theatre.
Ticket Price: JD 7.

Co-sponsored by Lufthansa and Jiries Rihani and Sons Company

Attend all four activities for JD 27.
The National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

Tuesday, 26 January 1993 - 8:00 p.m.

VIOLIN AND PIANO RECITAL

Aram Zarasian, concert violinist in-residence at the National Music Conservatory meets Australian concert pianist Robert Curry in an exciting recital. They will be performing pieces by: Beethoven, Liszt, Wieniawski, Stravinsky and others.

Place: The Royal Cultural Centre
Main Theatre.
Ticket Price: JD 7.

Co-sponsored by the Australian Embassy in Jordan

Saturday, 30 January 1993 - 8:00 p.m.

LUTE RECITAL
Bill Badley, British lutenist, will take the audience on a musical trip back to the golden days of this instrument. The lute is considered the successor of the oud and the precursor of the guitar.

Place: The Royal Cultural Centre
Studio Theatre.
Ticket Price: JD 5.

Co-sponsored by the British Council

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JANUARY 14-15, 1993



French driver Pierre Lartigue steers his Citroen ZX across the desert in the Adrar-Chenacher stage of the Paris-Dakar Rally

Saby tightens grip in Paris-Dakar Rally

PARIS (R) — Bruno Saby's lead in the Paris-Dakar Rally looked even more impregnable as he took a trouble-free second place in the seventh African stage and increased the gap over nearest rival Pierre Lartigue Tuesday.

Saby's Mitsubishi led fellow Frenchman Lartigue, in a Citroen, by one hour 42 minutes. Lartigue was slowed down by three punctures on the 650-km leg from Chenacher in Algeria to Bir Amrane, Mauritania.

The stage was won by a third Frenchman Jean-Pierre Fontenay, in another Mitsubishi but he remains outside the top 10 after breaking a back axle early in the rally.

"I didn't start the day aiming to set the fastest time," said Fontenay. "But after a puncture we took the spare wheel off the roof and went quicker because the aerodynamics were better."

Frenchman Hubert Auriol took third place in the leg and remains in that position overall but is more than four and a half hours adrift of the leader.

Stephane Peterhansel kept a tight grip on the lead among the bikes, although he was content to finish in third place on the stage behind Jordi Acarons of Spain and fellow Frenchman Thierry Charbonnier. All three are Yamaha riders.

Charbonnier, second overall, closed the gap on Peterhansel slightly but still remained 82 minutes behind.

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	PCT.	GB
New York	19	12	.613	
New Jersey	18	15	.545	2
Boston	17	17	.500	3 1-2
Orlando	14	14	.500	3 1-2
Philadelphia	11	18	.379	7
Miami	10	21	.323	9
Washington	10	22	.313	9 1-2

Central Division

	W	L	PCT.	GB
Chicago	23	10	.697	—
Cleveland	20	13	.606	3
Charlotte	17	14	.548	5
Detroit	16	16	.500	6 1-2
Indiana	15	17	.469	7 1-2
Atlanta	14	17	.452	8
Milwaukee	14	18	.438	8 1-2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	PCT.	GB
Utah	21	10	.677	—
San Antonio	18	13	.581	3
Houston	15	16	.484	6
Denver	8	22	.367	12 1-2
Minnesota	6	22	.207	14
Dallas	2	27	.069	18

Pacific Division

	W	L	PCT.	GB
Phoenix	23	5	.821	—
Seattle	22	8	.733	2
Portland	20	10	.667	4
Golden State	18	14	.563	7
L.A. Lakers	18	14	.563	7
L.A. Clippers	17	16	.515	8
Sacramento	13	17	.433	11

NBA

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GOREN BRIDGE

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Both vulnerable. South deals. The contract, therefore, had to lose no more than one diamond trick. The obvious way to accomplish that is to draw trumps and hope diamonds break evenly—gather paltry odds of some 36 percent. However, the chance of a 3-3 split can be combined with the possibility of ruffing the fourth diamond in dummy. That requires finding the defender with two diamonds holding no more than two trumps, and some careful timing.

If declarer immediately cashes the ace and king of diamonds and leads a third round, the defense can prevail. East wins the third diamond, cashes the jack of hearts and leads a fourth round of diamonds and West can ruff higher than dummy. Drawing two rounds of trumps before leading diamonds is equally futile—East wins and removes dummy's last trump.

The winning technique is simple. After taking the ace of hearts, declarer should immediately duck a diamond. When South regains the lead, two rounds of trumps are drawn, followed by the ace and king of diamonds. If the suit breaks, declarer can draw the last trump. As the cards lie in the diagram, declarer can ruff his remaining diamond for the fulfilling trick.

When South could not make a takeout double of two hearts, North gave up any hope of a spade contract. East-West, already stretched to the limit, were quite happy to sell out to an enemy partscore.

West led the king of hearts and declarer was looking at three sure losers in the major suits. To make

Sabatini edges into last eight as Sanchez sequence ends

SYDNEY (R) — Top seed Gabriela Sabatini continued her shaky progress through the draw at the New South Wales Open Wednesday as luck finally ran out for men's defending champion Emilio Sanchez.

Sabatini, who blazed her way to the same title in memorable style 12 months ago, again struggled for long periods before completing a sketchy 6-4 4-6 6-2 second-round victory over American Patty Fendick.

Sabatini's Sanchez, who collected the men's trophy at White City last year without dropping a set, suffered a similar fate to the one brother Javier endured Tuesday by losing 7-6 6-4 to Sweden's resurrected Jonas Svensson.

The men's draw remains unpredictable, eighth seed Henrik Holm merely the latest casualty. His preparations for next week's Australian Open were abruptly curtailed by a 7-5 6-4 loss to another Swede, Nicklas Kulti, winner of last week's Australian Hardcourt title.

Kulti now plays top seed Pete Sampras, who stepped up a gear in defeating Australian doubles specialist Mark Woodforde 6-4 6-3.

Consistency is Sabatini's constant goal, too, but the Argentine player had one of her infuriating off-days against the gritty Fendick.

The American squandered six break points in the first set, was 4-0 up at one stage in the second and hit a high percentage of sweet forehands past her startled opponent.

A stream of unforced errors proved her undoing, however, as Sabatini held on to secure a quarter-final place against Ger-

many's Barbara Rittner.

"I didn't play well. This is my first tournament of the year but I think I'm going to get better each match," Sabatini said.

Svensson's win over Sanchez again demonstrated the narrow gap between the world's best 100 male players.

The Swede, among the world's top 10 in 1991, dropped out of the leading 10 last year. He found himself forced to qualify this week but remains a useful customer in Australian conditions.

Little-known Australian Michael Tebbutt, ranked 870 on the computer, came close to causing his second shock of the week before losing 2-6 7-6 6-2 to Italy's Omar Camporese.

Women's seventh seed Lori McNeil failed to survive into the last eight. She was beaten 6-1 7-6 by former champion Pam Shriver.

South African Wayne Ferreira was in ambitious mood after crushing Australian Sandon Stolle 6-2 6-1.

The 21-year-old is convinced he can break into the world's top five before the end of the year and has bought an apartment in Paris to ease the travelling pressure between tournaments.

Seles says hard to repeat 1992 Grand Slam wins

The world number one women's tennis player, Monica Seles, admitted Wednesday it would be hard to repeat last year's three Grand Slam victories.

Seles, still only 19, told reporters before her defence of the year's first Grand Slam, the Australian Open, that success in

1993 would depend on her fitness.

Seles won the Australian, French and United States Opens last year. She was deprived of all four Grand Slams by world number two, Germany's Steffi Graf, who beat her in the Wimbledon final.

"I think last year was pretty lucky. The Australian Open was good but the French could have been Steffi's or mine and in the U.S. Open I had a lot of luck with the draw," she said Wednesday. "It can't go on being in three Grand Slams and getting into the finals of every tournament,"

Seles said.

Grand Slams and getting into the finals of every tournament,"

World number three Gabriela Sabatini, who is playing in the New South Wales Open in Sydney this week, was also convinced the left-hander can beaten.

"I don't think it will be hard to catch up to Seles," the Argentine told reporters in Sydney. "She's a very beatable player because mentally she's very tough, but technically in her game she is very beatable," Sabatini added.

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Financial Markets Jordan Times
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 13/1/95	Tokyo Close Date 13/1/95
Sterling Pound*	1.5395	1.5390
Deutsche Mark	1.6320	1.6363
Swiss Franc	1.4993	1.5023
French Franc	5.5340	5.5475 **
Japanese Yen	125.25	125.87
European Currency Unit	1.2045	1.2088 **

*USD per SGD

** European Opening of USD 1.000,000 or equivalent.

Nonconvertible International Reserves Dates 13/1/95

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.12	3.25	3.37	3.51
Sterling Pound	6.87	6.87	6.75	6.62
Deutsche Mark	8.50	8.31	7.93	7.37
Swiss Franc	5.43	5.50	5.37	5.18
French Franc	11.37	11.37	10.25	9.12
Japanese Yen	3.75	3.65	3.62	3.43
European Currency Unit	10.18	10.18	9.81	9.06

Interest bid rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Dates 13/1/95

Metal	USD/oz	JDP/Gm*	Metal	USD/oz	JDP/Gm
Gold	325.00	6.45	Silver	3.68	.086

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Dates 13/1/95

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.689	0.691
Sterling Pound	1.0596	1.0649
Deutsche Mark	0.4206	0.4227
Swiss Franc	0.4585	0.4608
French Franc	0.1240	0.1246
Japanese Yen*	0.5465	0.5492
Dutch Guilder	0.3747	0.3766
Swedish Krona	0.0923	0.0928
Italian Lira*	0.0458	0.0460
Belgian Franc	0.02047	0.02057

* Per 100

Other Currencies Dates 13/1/95

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahrain Dinar	1.7970	1.8180
Lebanese Lira*	0.03635	0.03915
Saudi Riyal	0.1833	0.1845
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.7550	2.9000
Qatari Riyal	0.1866	0.1880
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7560	1.7750
UAE Dirham	0.1866	0.1880
Greek Drachma*	0.31525	0.32525
Cypriot Pound	1.4725	1.4825

* Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	11/1/95	Close	12/1/95	Close
All-Share	182.03	182.04		
Banking Sector	130.84	130.71		
Insurance Sector	197.87	198.40		
Industry Sector	251.40	251.26		
Services Sector	247.36	249.46		

October 31, 1994 - 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES	
London (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midmorning on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.	
One U.S. dollar	1.2795/800
	1.6305/15
	1.8380/90
	1.4985/90
	33.61/65
	5.5300/50
	1508/1510
	125.95/126.00
	7,4900/5000
	6,9690/790
	6,3150/250
One sterling	1.5470/80
One ounce of gold	\$327.95/328.45

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Pandemonium (Ta'a wa Qaimah)
Daily at 8:30 p.m.
Tickets office open all day

Sweden's premier sees stronger crown

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's Prime Minister Carl Bildt, defending a controversial budget, pruning back the country's welfare state, said Tuesday he is determined not to repeat the mistakes of the 1980s.

In an interview with Reuters, the prime minister also said the Swedish crown is likely to float for some considerable time but added the value of the crown should firm as Swedish export prices pick up.

"The important thing is not to repeat the mistakes of the 1980s. This budget shows we are aware of that. We will get strong improvement... it won't be quick but it will happen," Mr. Bildt said.

Mr. Bildt partly blames Sweden's recession, now entering

its third year, on the highly expansive financial policies under the opposition Social Democrats in the 1980s which led to growing inflation, increased borrowing and an overheated economy.

Sweden was forced to let the crown float freely on foreign exchange markets on Nov. 19 as pessimism about the country's economy fuelled widespread speculation against the currency.

It had previously unilaterally pegged the crown to the European Currency Unit (ECU).

"Under current circumstances we have to be prepared for the crowns floating during a considerable period of time," Mr. Bildt said. But he added it "is reasonable to assume that we'll get a stronger crown as our export figures start to improve."

Swedish exports are expected to rise around five per cent this year and eight per cent next year.

Mr. Bildt says his minority centre-right government is now on course to pull Sweden out of recession.

On Monday, Finance Minister Anne Wibbel presented a budget that will slash 16.8 billion crowns (\$2.27 billion) off costs and make the unemployed, students and pensioners worse off.

Mr. Bildt said the budget would help improve the economy and keep underlying inflation at two per cent in the next two years.

The budget forecast a state spending deficit this fiscal year of 198.3 billion crowns (\$26.8 billion) and a 162.3 billion crowns (\$21.9 billion) shortfall in the

year starting July 1.

It drew immediate criticism from the opposition Social Democrats whose leader Ingvar Carlsson called it a "catastrophe." He demanded more spending on infrastructure and training in order to mop up the rising tide of unemployment.

But Mr. Bildt remained confident the measures would become law. "There will probably be a struggle, but I see nothing that would lead to an acute problem in parliament," he said.

Mr. Bildt also said one of his goals was to bring Swedish interest rates down to the same level as German rates. "The goal is that the interest rate differential versus (German) rates should be as little as possible," he said.

Three major Jordanian firms unify purchases in a joint tender

By Samir Shafiq

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three Jordanian public shareholding companies have given their private operations an extra power, a stronger national bind and a louder voice in international business circles when they launched their first joint tender few days ago in response to the idea put by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to Jordanian businesses to group their foreign purchases to achieve greater benefits.

According to engineers Isa Matarneh, Shukri Ukleh and Fawzi Hamzeh, heads of procurement departments at the Arab Potash Co., the Phosphate Mining Co. and the Jordan Cement Co. respectively, a committee representing the three companies was formed last year to study channelling various foreign purchases of equipment and spare parts through joint tenders.

Mr. Matarneh said the task was not easy as each company had to check its stock and evaluate its needs for a year in addition to preparing technical specifications for each item amid the necessary administrative requirements at each company.

After a thorough examination of needed materials and equipment this year and chose as a trial experiment importing tyres and conveyor belts.

Mr. Matarneh said that both items were very much used and had great similarity in specifications at the three companies.

Mr. Ukleh emphasised that studies that had been done on unifying purchase orders were comprehensive and detailed and there was no possibility that the newly-adopted system would be amended if need be.

He said that the reason behind describing the first tender as experimental was only to evaluate the feedback from suppliers and examine how best the terms of the tender should be amended if need be.

"The evaluation of this experimental tender is absolutely not to see if the system is viable or not. The set up is unquestionably here to stay," Mr. Ukleh stressed.

Both engineers highlighted the following advantages that would be of great value to the three Jordanian companies:

1) Forming a substantial purchasing unit that would sharpen supply offers to best quality at cheapest prices due to the higher import volume;

2) Exchange information and other benefits among the three Jordanian companies;

3) Narrow specification differences of needed products and, in the long run, create unified requirements;

4) Obtain better delivery terms from foreign suppliers;

5) Form larger stocks of a product that can fulfill the needs of the three companies at all times.

Mr. Ukleh and Mr. Matarneh said the new unit would, in addition, be a detriment to any supplier against fallacies because any misconduct on the part of the exporter would cause a large-scale damage to his/her reputation in Jordan and in the region for having failed to properly honour a huge order to a major and main Mideast importer.

The engineers estimated the tyres and conveyor belts' order to be roughly in the range of \$3 million.

Mr. Hamzeh highly esteemed the Crown Prince's idea to merge foreign purchases and credited Ali Ensour, the director-general of the Arab Potash Co., for translating the idea into a real function.

He said that it was Mr. Ensour's deep knowledge of the phosphate company, which he had headed in the past, that enabled him to follow up on establishing the new body to launch joint tenders.

Honestly, the link started between the phosphate and potash companies and we (the cement company) were invited to join later," Mr. Hamzeh said.

Mr. Hamzeh drew parallels between the group of the three companies and the Central Tenders Committee which launches all government tenders and noted that the system was very efficient and cost saving.

The cement company engineer estimated that the total volume of foreign purchases for the three companies would be less than \$50 million annually as not all the equipment and spares qualify to be launched in joint tenders.

He said that a few other firms might join the tender consortium soon. He expected them to be mainly the petroleum refinery, the white cement company, the electricity authority, the iron and steel companies and the tobacco company

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Children devastated by Sri Lankan wars

COLOMBO (AP) — A decade of ethnic conflicts has ravaged Sri Lanka's children who face poverty, malnutrition and trauma every day of their lives, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Tuesday. Children have been orphaned, crippled and deprived of education because of the lingering Tamil war in the north and a 1987-1989 ethnic revolt in the south, the fund said. It gave no figures of how many children had suffered, but a government study said last year about 47,000 children were affected by the Tamil war and the abortive Sinhalese revolt. The Tamil separatist war has claimed more than 17,500 lives since it began in 1983. As many as 50,000 people are believed to have been killed in a brutal government crackdown on members of a leftist Sinhalese Party that tried to overthrow the government. The conflicts have had a devastating impact on the quality of life of children and women, UNICEF said while signing its fifth country programme in Sri Lanka. Under the programme, UNICEF will contribute \$36.8 million in assistance to the government for the welfare of children, mainly through nutrition and control of infant mortality rates.

'IRA man shot dead without warning'

ENNISKILLEN, Northern Ireland (R) — Undercover British soldiers shot dead one of the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) guerrillas without giving him a chance to surrender, a Northern Ireland inquest has ruled. Seamus McElwaine, 25, was killed and a second IRA guerrilla was wounded in 1986 near the village of Roslea, near the Irish border, as they prepared a planned ambush against security forces. At the time of the shooting, McElwaine was on the run after escaping from the top security Maze prison with other members of the IRA. He was serving a life sentence for the murder of two members of the security forces. A jury at a coroner's court in Enniskillen agreed that troops had not challenged McElwaine before he was hit by an initial burst of gunfire. The jury also said they fired again five minutes later as McElwaine lay injured.

Mass field for Nigerian presidency

ABUJA (R) — Retired army officers, former politicians and wealthy merchants are among 102 people in the race for Nigeria's civilian presidency, and a military government official said the number could swell to 600. The mass field for the presidency has heightened concern that a difficult selection process might inflame regional rivalries and result in large-scale poll fraud of the kind that scuttled last year's attempt to pick a new executive leader. The right-of-centre National Republican Convention (NRC) reported 55 candidates to 47 for the moderate leftist Social Democratic Party (SDP). Two of the candidates are women. After a convoluted selection process in all 50 states, each party must produce one candidate for a June 12 poll before President Ibrahim Babangida's planned handing over in August.

Kidnapped Aga Khan official feared dead

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — A Pakistani tycoon and senior representative of Prince Karim Aga Khan kidnapped eight months ago is feared dead, officials said. Asghar Ali Hussain, 58, is thought to have died about a week after he was kidnapped by three armed men on a Karachi street on May 17 last year, said an official of the Citizens' Police Liaison Committee (CPLA). "He suffered from severe diabetes and probably died a week after he was kidnapped," said Nasem Haji, a founder of the private group, which has crusaded for three years to halt a rash of kidnappings in southern Pakistan. He may have gone into a coma and his kidnappers would have been unable to seek hospital treatment, Mr. Haji said. Mr. Hussain was a prominent figure in the Ismaili sect headed by the Aga Khan and was president of the Aga Khan Federation Council of Pakistan. "We still hope to solve this mystery and have not given up the investigation," Mr. Haji said.

Bush gets 'clean bill of health'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush emerged smiling from Bethesda Naval Hospital after his annual physical examination Tuesday, holding both thumbs up. "Clean bill of health," the president said. Dr. Burton Lee, the White House physician, said upon Mr. Bush's return to work in the Oval Office, "there isn't anything wrong with the president. Dr. Lee said no recurrences were found of the non-cancerous skin growths that had been removed from Mr. Bush's face last March. In a brief written statement later, Dr. Lee disclosed that Mr. Bush was injected with cortisone to ease "recent persistent pain" in his left hip. He provided no other details on the pain or the treatment, but said that over the past four years Mr. Bush's "osteoarthritis problems with his hips...have not progressed significantly."

Court upholds CIA's dismissal of gay spy

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) firing of a gay spy on grounds that he posed a threat to national security was upheld Tuesday by a federal appellate court. A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia said the CIA had a legitimate concern about the spy's trustworthiness in light of the fact that he had information about his involvement in homosexual activity despite suspecting or knowing that the agency considered such involvement to be a matter of security significance." The appeals court overturned a federal judge's ruling that the spy, identified in court papers only by the fictitious name John Doe, was denied due process when then CIA Director William Casey fired him 1982.

Grand jury refuses to indict senator

NORFOLK (AP) — A grand jury declined Tuesday to indict Senator Charles Robb, voting not to charge him in an alleged eavesdropping scheme against Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder. The outcome of the panel's 18-month probe was announced by the Justice Department in Washington. The grand jury investigating whether Mr. Robb participated in a plan to embarrass Mr. Wilder by leaking a transcript of a secretly recorded telephone conversation in that 1988 cellular phone conversation, Mr. Wilder, then lieutenant governor, boasted to a supporter that Mr. Robb's political career was over. Mr. Robb, 53, is a son-in-law of the late president Lyndon B. Johnson and served as Virginia governor before he was elected to the Senate in 1988. Though both Democrats, Mr. Wilder and Mr. Robb have feuded for years. Mr. Robb aides had hoped to show that Mr. Wilder was trying to undercut Mr. Robb, who faced allegations of drug use and marital infidelity. Mr. Robb has denied those charges.

Balloon launch put off when hole found

RENO (AP) — An attempt at man's first non-stop balloon flight around the world, already plagued by bad luck for nearly a year, hit another snag Tuesday as crews prepared for a pre-dawn lift-off. A hole the size of a small coin was found in the lower, air-filled balloon used as an anchor on the hourglass-shaped craft. The upper balloon contains helium; the crew capsule is between the two. "It looks like a burn hole, probably from a torch," said Lynne Newman, wife of balloon pilot Larry Newman. The launch of the Earthwinds II, initially scheduled for between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m., was put off until the hole could be repaired. Temperatures dipped below zero (-18 C) for the scheduled launch, which was to carry Mr. Newman, fellow American Don Moses and Russian cosmonaut Vladimir Dzhanibekov 10 kilometres in the air to hitch a 32,000-kilometre ride on the jet stream. Fickle weather thwarted a launch 11 months ago in Ohio and had put the programme on hold here since mid-November. The plan calls for the double balloon craft to soar for 12 to 21 days at jetliner altitude. Crew meteorologists said the current high-level winds are nearly ideal and Earthwinds could circle the globe in only 10 to 12 days.

Dutch to have armed forces

THE HAGUE (AP) — The government has unveiled sweeping cuts in the armed forces, including a phased abolition of the nation's 130-year-old draft over the next five years. "Only an all-volunteer army could, in the long term, create sufficient room for the guarantee of quality" in a much smaller force, Defence Minister Relius Ter Beek said in a statement to parliament.

Security forces relax curfew in riot-hit Bombay

BOMBAY (Agencies) — Security forces Wednesday relaxed curfews imposed on riot-torn areas of Bombay as Indian police reported the frenzied communal violence that has raged for the past week was abating.

Residents in India's commercial capital complained of growing shortages and sharply increased prices for fresh food after seven days of communal bloodshed halted deliveries of petrol, vegetables and staples.

"The city is comparatively peaceful, with the accent on comparatively," said one police officer. "But there's still some reports of scattered stone-throwing and fires."

The Times of India said at least 490 people have died in the dramatic flare-up of Hindu-Muslim bloodshed in Bombay, triple the official toll.

It quoted coroners contacted at six Bombay hospitals as saying the death toll during communal riots since Jan. 6 was 481 and likely to top 500.

At least 77 people have also died in bloodshed in the city of Ahmedabad, to the north of Bombay.

Police said they had relaxed curfews imposed in 30 areas of

Bombay for six hours during the morning. Many shops, closed for almost a week as gangs of arsonists roamed the streets, reopened, and commuter trains were running.

But the country's main stock exchange remained closed.

Bombay Member of Parliament Sunil Dutt Wednesday said he was resigning in protest against the "barbarous a ct" of looting, arson and killing in Bombay.

Police repeatedly opened fire to quell continued riots in Bombay Tuesday, as authorities said the week-long wave of arson and killings was on the wane and Defence Minister Sharad Pawar appealed for businesses to reopen.

The government has rushed more than 6,000 troops to Bombay to quell the bloodshed in which scores of people have been stabbed and hundreds of houses and shops set ablaze.

The Times of India said the frenzied violence appeared to be part of a deliberate campaign to force Muslims to leave.

Thousands of families have taken trains out of the city, once known for its tolerance.

"It is to strike so much terror in the hearts of the minority com-

munity that its members have no choice other than to flee either to predominantly Muslim parts of the city, or worse still, out of Bombay altogether," the paper said in a front-page editorial headlined "End Bombay's agony."

The latest eruption of violence followed nationwide Hindu-Muslim clashes in December triggered by the destruction of a 16th century mosque by Hindu militants in the northern town of Ayodhya.

Hardline Hindus want India, a nation of 870 million people, declared a Hindu state. There are more than 100 million Muslims in India, and the ruling Congress Party government said it is essential to maintain the secular nature of India.

Editors of nine-Bombay news papers Wednesday appealed to Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to help end the bloodbath.

They urged him to declare a state of partial emergency in Bombay, so that full control could be handed over to the army.

They said more security forces were also needed to regain control.

"The city is watching politi-



Salim Mohammad Pathan, 22, and Ashraf Ali, 10, talk to the press with bloodied, bandaged heads at a small refugee camp in Bombay following one week of communal riots (AFP photo)

cians playing power games, while people are being butchered in the streets," the editors said in the appeal printed in the leading business paper, the Economic Times.

In one of the worst incidents Tuesday, a Hindu woman who serves on a municipal council in central Bombay led a mob of 300 Hindus that set fire to 100 shacks in a Muslim slum, police said.

The woman — identified as Shantadasi Ramesh Baria — and another member of the group were shot and killed when police opened fire and evacuated 45 Muslim families whose homes were destroyed, said Ghanayam Changani, an assistant commissioner of police.

"This was a major attack," Mr. Changani said as he led a few reporters down narrow dirt roads filled with burned huts, cars and debris. "She led the group, exhorting the masses, 'Attack

attack.' The Hindus followed her because they had heard a rumour that the Muslim population in the community had filled their homes with firebombs and planned to attack the Hindus. Mr. Changani said as he led a few reporters down narrow dirt roads filled with burned huts, cars and debris. "She led the group, exhorting the masses, 'Attack

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